

instalments (amounting generally to \$100,000)  
the sum of

1,917,288 00

Making the whole obligations of the canal com-  
pany amount to

\$4,886,236 08

To comply with these very large engagements, the present board received from their predecessors, in means immediately available, the inconsiderable sum, of "cash in banks \$33,040 73."

If the extent and nature of these engagements had been known to the board alone, the hope might have been cherished, that by gaining indulgence from some of the creditors, and paying in part the claims of others, time would be afforded to make a judicious disposition of the bonds authorised to be issued, for the relief of the canal company. But this was not the case. The report of the president and directors of the canal company, made to the legislature at its last session, showed the extent of these debts.— And the investigation of the internal improvement committee of the House of Delegates, disclosing fully the circumstances under which they were contracted, pointed out very accurately, the perilous condition in which this company was placed by the very free exercise of its credit. Col. Wooton, chairman of that committee speaking of the fact, that Maryland bonds were pledged for the punctual payment of the largest portions of these debts, says "such contracts leave the company no alternative, they must sell, or subject themselves to risks, which they are not warranted in incurring. A thousand unforeseen circumstances may depress the money market. At such a moment it is not to be expected that the parties with whom they have contracted, will forego the opportunity of enriching themselves at the expense of the company by causing an immediate sale of the bonds." "The short dates at which the loans (Mr. Peabody's) have been effected, (many at 30, 60 and 90 days,) present to the foreign capitalists the alluring prospect of future profit, and the almost certain means of obtaining it. The slightest pressure in the money market, and those very bonds which cost the company 120 cents the dollar, may be sold at 80. The legislature certainly never imagined, at the moment of ratifying the ill-fated sale of the commissioners, that such a sacrifice, could by possibility be made." "Had these hypothecations been made at longer dates it would have been infinitely better, by affording the company more time to make their arrangements for a renewal of their contracts, and left them less to apprehend from the fluctuations of the money market."

Public attention having been thus directed to the extremely critical condition of the affairs of the company, each of its creditors became anxious to have his debt paid forthwith, from an apprehension perhaps, that the funds of the company might be inadequate to pay all. While capitalists in this country and in Europe became indifferent about the purchase of bonds, which they could readily foresee would inevitably be brought into the market at no very distant day, under circumstances the most disadvanta-