

compulsion) should dispose of the bonds accompanying them in London, for 50 or even 60 in the hundred, immediate bankruptcy to the whole canal company is inevitable; and I much fear that your engagements for the company will involve you very seriously. From this catastrophe, there appears to be but one chance for escape. If you, with the aid of Mr. McLane, can prevail upon some house in England or France to take charge of the bonds, and become responsible for the bills drawn on you for the canal company, we may be delivered from most painful embarrassments. I do now ask for aid to pay the monthly estimates. The suspension of specie payments by the banks of Maryland and elsewhere, has so far changed the condition of things in this country, that the canal company will not make further demands upon you. We shall, I repeat, be content, if you can manage to save the very heavy damages which will be incurred, if the bills which have gone to Europe are not paid at maturity. Of these bills I send with this a full and complete list; remarking that £19,000 of them, including those forwarded by Holford, Blanchor & Co., William Vyse, Pleiffer & Wipman, and Christmas Livingston & Prime, drawn payable to the president and directors of the Bank of Washington, were sold to enable me to make the remittance called for in your former letter. Whatever, therefore, may be the fate of others, these will, I hope, be accepted.

I have made application to the Treasurer of the state of Maryland, as desired in your letter, and send his reply, which can be returned to me. He has no authority, as you will perceive, to appoint a particular agent abroad for the payment of the interest on the sterling bonds. That authority has not been expressly parted with by the legislature of Maryland. But the directors of the canal company, to whom I have shewn your letter, stand prepared to sanction any thing that may be done on that subject by you, and the legislature, at its next session will, I have no doubt, ratify our proceedings.

The board of Directors of the canal company also consent cheerfully to pay such *interest on advances* as you may think proper to contract for, with any house who will undertake, on the receipt of the bonds you hold, to accept your drafts from time to time, for sums sufficient to pay the bills which have been drawn upon you, if it should happen that bonds for that purpose cannot be sold in due season. In the event of your failing to provide for all the bills, I must hope that you will, at all events, take care of Nos. 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, and those for £19,000 above mentioned. From the holders of these I have no right to expect any indulgence. They would claim all damages and costs allowed by law, and would sell, without delay, the stock hypothecated to secure the payment. This being the case, a sale of bonds by you to meet them at maturity, at any price, could not but be approved. But