

last November Court by John McPherson Brien, for \$500, of funds in the hands of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal company, bearing interest until paid. I understand that early in next month it is the intention of the company to pay off the land condemnations, and as I am in present want of money, shall draw on the company next week at 30 days, and get the draft discounted at bank. In the new relations subsisting between us, I shall waive the interest. I presume this draft will be within the convenience and wishes of the company. I felt a delicacy in mentioning to the board when here, certain engagements made with me last winter, by Mr. McCulloh as representing the interests of the canal, and contingent upon the success of the heavy project submitted. I desire to know whether these matters are understood—I am not eager for *fruition*, but wish for some communication on the subject.

I am respectfully, &c. &c.

J. J. MERRICK.

To the President of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal company.

No. 7.

HAGERSTOWN, Dec. 30th, 1835.

Gentlemen :

I have received notice of the dishonor of my bill drawn upon you on the 21st instant.

I do not know how to account for the fatality which seems to attend my transactions with, or for, your company; I mean that part of them which has some reference to benefits expected to result to myself.

I am altogether unwilling to think that honorable and eminent men, members of your board, can be aware of, much less that they authorize dealings with their counsel such as I have to complain of, and therefore I am about to present a brief narrative, suppressing as much as possible the expression of feelings themselves inexpressible.

Last winter I received repeated and pressing letters from a gentleman at Annapolis, of the highest respectability and influence, who stated to me that he was fully authorized to engage all assistance deemed by him necessary or important, pressing me to repair to Annapolis, and as counsel exert every nerve to revive your work, then languishing and ready to expire. He remarked that the compensation would be appropriate and ample in the event of success, but must necessarily be contingent, as I well knew the finances of the company being entirely exhausted, and heavy embarrassments pressing upon it in many quarters. I thought success exceedingly improbable. At length to his repeated instance I yielded, and from that time until the object was effected, cut off from the domestic circle which is my delight, and leaving my family in sickness, I labored most intensely night and day. The struggle was crowned with success, your coffers filled, your work recommenced under circumstances affording the strongest hope,