

had fallen from the position long time before, by it most steadily and firmly occupied; and no longer could sustain a system of appropriations from the national treasury, for the construction of internal improvements. Ohio, too, had made large expenditures on similar works, nearly all of which pointed either towards New York, via the Lakes, or towards the Ocean, via its own rivers and the Mississippi.

That I feared the influence which the jealousies of these States might exercise in the councils of our country, to prevent the fruition of my hopes, is most true; but still I considered it to be my duty to try the experiment, which had been proposed by the President of the United States, as I was credibly informed, and sincerely believed, because its result must definitely prove that money could, or could not be obtained from the national treasury, to construct the Chesapeake and Ohio canal. And if unhappily my hopes should be disappointed, their defeat would demonstrate to the friends of such works, in the State of Maryland, that the task of constructing them had, at last, been devolved exclusively on their State government; by changes, in national feelings, produced by a change of interests, on the part of some very controlling States.

An appeal was made to Congress by the canal company, after Mr. Eaton became its president, and its application was commended to the favorable consideration of the national legislature, by a resolution passed, as aforesaid mentioned, by the General Assembly of Maryland; it was also most anxiously watched over by Mr. Eaton, as will be perceived from the concluding remarks in the following letter, addressed by him to me.

*Letter from MR. EATON.*

WASHINGTON, 8th March, 1834.

*My Dear Sir,*—I am glad to learn through Mr. Ingle, that you are yet at Annapolis; I must entreat, that through your frank manner and the influence it affords, you will take care of our canal interests. Our board have been in solemn council. We scarcely know what to do—cash is out, and as a *sequitur*, credit is out.—We should have stopped our contracts and given up the ship yesterday, but ‘hope told the flattering tale,’ that may be, Maryland would act. Resting on that, perhaps a fallacious hope, we have forborne to act until Wednesday, when, if nothing favorable arrives from your metropolis, we must ‘give up the ship,’ our anchors are drifting, and we can hold on no longer—but there is a consolation left, that we have sounded an honest and timely warning to our friends; and if they will not heed, be theirs the error. I but know, or think I do, the canal being abandoned, and abandoned it must be, without some speedy succour, it sinks to rise no more, at least for a time.

Can't you see Merrick, and get the bill in some better shape? Urge no objections as coming from me, for already I have preach-