

and regret that it is not in my power, to inform you of any favorable change, either in the money or stock markets; and from the great number of gentlemen from different States of our country who have come in the "Great Western" and "Liverpool," and are now here endeavoring to sell bonds, or borrow money on them, the prospect of any material improvement appears more remote than ever." Alluding to the sales of Ohio stock, he observes in the same letter, "Ohio has been a favorite stock in this country, and so large a sum having been put into the market, through Messrs. Baring & Brothers, at so low a price, has made a most unfavorable effect on all others, and capitalists seem to have lost all confidence in the prices of our best stocks, being maintained, and I think with reason, for during the last year, they have no sooner made investments at what they considered low prices, than the same stock has been offered still lower; and this feeling has become so strong that nearly all operations have ceased."

In justice to Mr. Thomas and his associates, it ought to be borne in mind, that this was the state of the money market when they were called upon to take the management of the canal company; and it ought also to be recollected, that the pecuniary engagements of the company at that time, amounted to about five million, two hundred thousand dollars. Thus circumstanced, they had no option; they had to meet things as they then were, and not to swim smoothly on an unruffled current; capitalists had, to use the language of Mr. Peabody, "lost all confidence in the prices of our best stocks being maintained," and they had to pay the debts of the company by the conversion of the bonds into money. They were compelled to sell, or, to use the language of the committee of 1838, "subject themselves to risks which they were not warranted in running."

Before proceeding to show the character of the sales, a matter alluded to in the testimony of Mr. Barnard, late treasurer, requires some notice. It appears from the testimony of that gentleman, that he refused to sign, as Treasurer, the table showing the disposition made of the State bonds, to be found among the accompanying documents to the President's communication to the Governor, dated the 10th Feb. 1840, because as he alleges, the caption given to that statement, was not true. It seems that he had prepared the statement with the following heading, viz:—"statement showing what the 5 per cent bonds of the State of Maryland, might have produced in Baltimore