

## APPENDIX.

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*(Copy of Mr. McLane's letter, accepting the office of President.)*

NEW YORK, *January 28th, 1837.*

GENTLEMEN:

I have already had the pleasure, in our interviews in this city, to express my acknowledgments of the kind and handsome manner, in which the directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company have elected me to the office of President; and I beg leave, on this occasion, to convey them to your colleagues in the board.

Regarding the enterprise, with which the directors have been pleased to connect me, as one of the most important of our national works, deeply interesting to the States with which it is immediately connected, and, especially, essential to the prosperity of Maryland and the city of Baltimore, I should feel a pride in being associated with its future progress and completion.

Any steps for this purpose, however, would have to be reconciled, in point of time, to the interests which might be affected by separating from my present connexions; and it was, moreover, necessary, that I should be made acquainted with the grounds justifying a reasonable prospect of my being able to realise the expectations of the directors, and of the practicability of completing, by our joint exertions, the great work they have in hand.

The explanation of the committee upon the first point being satisfactory, the last, and to the board and myself the most important, remained for consideration.

In my reflections upon this subject, it was impossible I should be unmindful of the over-estimate which the board have been pleased to make of my ability to serve them; and, if I supposed that more could be expected of me than diligently and faithfully to second the efforts of the directors and others, to make available and apply the various resources upon which the success of the work must ultimately depend, that, of itself, would have deterred me from the task. I am led to consider, however, that the expectations of the board will be satisfied by a faithful employment of my best faculties in the service of the company; and