

COMMUNICATION.

ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 24th, 1844.

To the Honorable

The Speaker of the House of Delegates.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to communicate to the House the correspondence called for by the orders of the 23rd inst., in regard to the negotiation of a loan to complete the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to Cumberland, under the bill now before the House.

Having been assured by gentlemen favorable to the extension of the work, by a dam and slack water navigation, from Cumberland to the mouth of Savage, and who possess a large interest in the coal and iron region, at or near that point, that through their instrumentality the necessary amount could be raised for that purpose in case a provision be made in the law for such extension, the enquiries of the company have been, so far, restricted to the sum required for the completion to Cumberland only.

Even to this extent our efforts to obtain sufficient data to furnish an answer to the latter portion of the second interrogatory of the House, have been of but a limited character.

The short time which has elapsed since I was elected to the office I now have the honor to occupy, and the numerous and pressing duties which have devolved upon me, in reference to the management of its affairs, during a period of unprecedented difficulty and embarrassment, growing out of the straightened means of the company, and the disastrous breaches which occurred on the canal during the past year, have afforded me but little opportunity for that purpose.

The letters addressed to the Messrs. Barings and Mr. Peabody, of London, were written and sent within a fortnight after I was elected to office, and the correspondence now communicated to the House, is the only one which has been held by myself or any other officer of the company on the subject, so far as I am informed.

I regard this correspondence as indicative of the *practicability* of raising money to finish the canal on its *own resources*, and as going as far perhaps as could be expected, in anticipation of the action of the legislature.