

COMMUNICATION.

OFFICE OF THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAIL ROAD CO.

February 15, 1844.

To the Honorable

The Speaker of the House of Delegates:

SIR:—I had the honor to receive on the 12th instant, the order of the House of Delegates, passed on the 10th, and having at the earliest day practicable submitted it to the Board of Directors of this company. I am authorized to transmit the following reply:

In the first place, the board desire it should be distinctly understood that the investigation into which the House of Delegates have been led, has been without their prompting or knowledge; and that in responding to inquiries into their resources and business, which by exposing in detail the course and results of a single branch of their operations may possibly lead to erroneous inferences in respect to others,—without a like opportunity of explanation, they yield only to a sense of respect due to the legislature of the State having so deep an interest in the trade and revenues of the road. The sequel of this present answer will satisfactorily shew that the board need have no other objection to the amplest exposition of their credit and resources, and of the whole range of their transactions, on any other ground than that already indicated.

The board have at no time heretofore deemed it expedient or desirable to make expensive preparations for the transportation of any considerable amount of coal from the mines in Allegany county. It has been quite obvious to them, as indeed they must presume it will be to all, that without the facilities of Rail Road communication between the mines and Cumberland, the article could not be brought to the latter point in quantities sufficient to warrant a large expenditure in providing means of transportation by any channel whatever. Up to this period the ultimate route of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road from Cumberland to the Ohio River is too indeterminate to authorize any attempt to extend it to any part of the coal region, and it is only recently that the board have seen any evidence of the existence in any other quarter of the capital sufficient either to construct a road to the mines, or to