6

J. M. Bullock
1841.

For His Ex.

R. P. Letcher

SHELBYVILLE
FEB
26
K.

Frankfort Ky.

Shelbyville Ky. Feby. 25th. 1841.

Dear Sir,

Mr. McKnight called to see me as he passed through here to day - he informs me that the Board of Commissioners done nothing decisive either in regard to their own action or advice to you in relation to the sale of bonds and the fiscal affairs of the State - the condition of our system of Internal Improvements is certainly to be deplored and for the sake of the contractors it is to be regretted that the Legislature failed to authorize the sale of the bonds at the best price that could be obtained in the market.

Mr. McKnight informed me that you wished me to inform you of the time I would leave home for the east and what delays I would be subject to on the trip in consequence of women folks - now, as you say there is "a heap of pretty reading" in that word, woman, particularly for an old bachellor - but to my regret and shame too, I am constrained to say that Madam rumor is, in regard to myself, tetotally out of it - for my serious gallantries have yet to be indulged in - ~~for~~ in sober earnest I have neither addressed or determined to court any one, nor have my affections concentrated upon any living woman - nor am I willing as yet to "give up my free unhoused condition" & come under petty-coat government after having waited so long, unless I can be richly compensated for the surrender of my liberty - I have said so much to disabuse you about the thousand & one reports that have grown out of ~~the~~ my gallantries & flirtations of my leisure hours during the winter - I wish to God I could fall in love with some interesting clever girl - but there is no hope I fear, I have seen & known to much of the sex.

I shall leave here the last of next week and

LI-67

shall go directly to Philadelphia & thence to New York. I know of nothing bating steam-boat & stage accidents to delay my progress - I wrote some days ago to Mr. Harlan offering to obtain and bring out to Ky. the coupons I directed the banks to retain until further orders & to do any other little commission for yourself or him that you might desire - I am sorry that in his reply he seems to have misconceived my object and construed it into an application for a commission to sell bonds - I feel greatful for his kind feelings as expressed in his letter & shall not forget them - but must take the liberty of putting him right and of vindicating myself from even the appearance of asking the appointment or the wish of embarrassing you in your feelings or movements in the slightest degree either in this matter or any other - my object was simply to authorise either of you to command my services as individuals and as personal friends & not officially, & this I hope you will do if occasion requires.

I do not know that I shall again be in Frankfort before my departure as I shall go by Louisville. O Brown writes me in good spirits about his matters, of which you know, I throw the old shoe after him with all my heart - I shall not go to Washington atall - nor do I anticipate any favours from the genl. government - as I am much too proud to ask, or to accept of any that would in all human probability be tendered to one enjoying so little of reputation - less money & fewer friends - so I am content with the unambitious, quiet & honorable station of private citizen & to enjoy my otium cum dignitate - should any thing transpire whilst I am gone worthy of communicating I will write you.

With sincere regard I remain

your Exy. Obt. Servt.

J M Bullock

Lexington Feb 25th 1841

Dear Sir

If the law requiring the Governor of the State to appoint an agent, to superintend the organization and establishment of common schools, was not repealed during the last session of the legislature, I would respectfully suggest to you the name of Prof. Thos. D. Mitchell as a suitable individual to discharge that duty. Dr Mitchells general acquaintance with elementary education and his accurate and thorough knowledge of chemistry, together with a general acquaintance with geology and mineralogy, would enable him in performing the duties of general agent, to collect a great amount of valuable information, relating to the mineral wealth of our state.

The Doctor is a man of great industry and business habits, and would doubtless give general satisfaction, if appointed.

Should an appointment be made in the course of the spring, his labors would not conflict with the Doctors duties in the Department of Transylvania University with

L1-69

Sentiments of great regard and respect

I am Your

Obt

Servt

W. H. Richardson

His Excellcy

Robt P. Letcher

Docr Wm Richardson

To Govr Letter

1841.

Recommending

Docr Mitchell

as Superintendant

of Commonschools

Thomas Metcalfe
Prest. Bd. Int'l Impt.
26th febry 1841

relative to the Contractors and the Sale of State Bonds.

recorded in Letter Book page 23.

His Excellency
R. P. Letcher
Secretary's Office
Frankfort

Office of the Board of Int. Imp.t
Frankfort Feb.y 26. 1841.

His Excellency the Governor of Ky.

Sir

Your letter of yesterday, in reply to mine of the same date calling upon you for information in regard to the sale of Bonds, for the purpose of raising the means to discharge the debts due to Contractors on our public works, and to enable them to prosecute their contracts for the present year, is before me, and I thank you for the information therein communicated—

Upon more mature reflection however, I deem it a duty which I owe to the State, to the Board, and to the Contractors, respectfully to call upon you for such further information as you may think proper to give on the following points, to wit—

In the event of a failure on your part to make sale of the Bonds in the East, will you consent to sell them at par to the Contractors, or to such of them as may agree to receive the bonds in payment of debts now due? And in the ~~event of~~ a failure as aforesaid, will it meet with your approbation to sell the bonds at par to the Contractors, or to such of them as may agree to receive the same in lieu of payments in money for work hereafter to be performed within the present year?

The obvious importance of the additional information desired, cannot fail to impress itself upon the mind

L1-70

of your excellency; and to form the best apology for my submitting to your consideration these additional enquiries. It is understood that many of the contractors both on the rivers and on the roads have been actively employed in prosecuting the works, since the last estimates were made, and that they still have at this time many hands employed. It would be alike grateful to the feelings of the Board, and due to the contractors, that the latter should be informed at the earliest possible period, what they may with certainty depend upon for the prosecution of their contracts — And should the terms within the power of the Board to offer, not be acceded to by the contractors, it is due to the State that such steps shall at once be taken, as will best protect against ruin and destruction the works in progress, and that the services of various officers now employed to conduct and superintend the work, should be dispensed with, so as to relieve the state from further expenditure on that score —

All of which is respectfully submitted to the consideration of your Excellency by your Obt. Sevt.

Thomas Metcalfe
Pdt. Bd. Intl. Impt