

these roads are far better adapted to our situation and circumstances than a canal across the mountains: they therefore recommend that measures be taken to construct a double rail road between the city of Baltimore and some suitable point on the Ohio river, by the most eligible and direct route, and that a charter to incorporate a company to execute this work, be obtained as early as possible."

The facts developed on this occasion were deemed so weighty and conclusive, that it was unanimously resolved to apply to the legislatures of the several states through which the contemplated rail road might pass, for acts of incorporation, authorizing the company to construct such a road. The legislatures of Maryland and Virginia, then in session, with a promptness which entitles them to the public gratitude, concurred in an act, incorporating a company as desired, and investing it with ample powers. This act was subsequently acceded to by the legislature of Pennsylvania in the same liberal spirit.

The state of Maryland having provided, as a condition of its subscription to the stock of the company, that the road should be so located "that it shall go to, or strike the Potomac river at some point between the mouth of the Monocacy river and the town of Cumberland, in Allegany county, and that it shall go into Frederick, Washington, and Allegany counties." The road was located accordingly, subsequent examinations having demonstrated, that the Potomac presented the only feasible route along which it could be carried in this direction, consistently with correct scientific principles.

The commissioners appointed, having opened subscriptions for the stock, the amount required by the charter was immediately filled; whereupon, a board of directors was elected, and the company being duly organized, proceeded, without delay, to cause the neces-