

He found the distance from Detroit to be, as is stated in his own manuscript, to Alexandria 600 miles, Richmond 840, Philadelphia 741, Albany 943, New-York 1,103.\*

And at the close of the year 1784, accompanied by Gen. Gates, on the part of Virginia, he met at the city of Annapolis, as Commissioners on the part of Maryland, the Hon. Thomas Stone, Samuel Hughes and Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Esquires, of the Senate—and John Cadwallader, Samuel Chase, John Debutts, George Diggs, Philip Key, Gustavus Scott, and Joseph Dashiell, Esquires, of the House of Delegates—and jointly, with them, projected works to facilitate trade and intercourse between the Western waters and those of the Chesapeake; works that led the way, but finally gave place after an experience gained during forty years, and at the solicitation of a Convention of our citizens, over which the venerable Carroll presided, to the noble improvement which is now in progress.

The completion of *this national work*, is therefore commended to the people of Maryland, *by the advice of many of the sages of the Revolution*—but, above all, by the fervent wishes of the Father of our common country—two generations have concurred in their opinion, and have steadily sought to accomplish that object—and shall the present hesitate to fulfil their lofty purpose?

Were your Committee to consider the subject merely with a view to commerce and finance, since well judging men believe that a revenue may be derived from it, far exceeding the interest on its cost, and experience in this and other countries, appears to sanction such belief, we would not hesitate to advise this Legislature to prosecute *this good work*. But considering it on a more extended scale of policy—regarding it as a bond of perpetual union—your

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\* See page 29, Report by Commissioners to the Governor of Maryland, in 1822.