

The other channels of intercourse are so very difficult and expensive as to forbid the transportation of many of the productions of our State upon them, and consequently in the severe winters which are common to our climate, all trade between the City of Baltimore and the bay and river counties, as well as between any of the other States and foreign countries, must cease, unless some artificial means are found to open the navigation.

The bay and river counties are not alone interested, but all others are concerned that seek a market in Baltimore for the productions of their soil, of whatever character, or that look to it for such articles of consumption, as are brought from foreign climes,—as the demand for the one, and the supply of the other is increased or diminished, as the ability of vessels to depart or arrive at that city is facilitated or retarded.

These considerations have not failed of their proper influence,—and accordingly we find that on the application of many of our enterprising citizens, the Baltimore and Chesapeake Steam Towing company, was incorporated by the Legislature in the year eighteen hundred and thirty two, for the purpose of facilitating and promoting the navigation of vessels on the Patapsco and Chesapeake, at all seasons of the year. It was within the contemplation of those who asked for the incorporation of this company, that a Steam Boat, of approved model, should be constructed, to try the experiment of opening a track through the ice, for the passage of vessels. With this view was built the Steam Boat Relief, and as it was an entirely novel undertaking no more expense was incurred in her engine than was deemed necessary to fairly test the practicability of the scheme. The last and the present winter have afforded full opportunities for that purpose, and the committee are gratified, that they can assure the house of its entire success. During the present winter the harbour at Baltimore has been at all times accessible from the bay, by the track which the Relief opened, although the ice extended below the mouth of the Patapsco river, and for a