

more always open, and if this should be demonstrated to be practicable,—as the committee believe it has,—who doubts but it is the duty of a wise and provident Legislature to afford whatever aid it may be in their power to ensure that desirable object? It is under the influence of considerations, which lead them to believe that it is the duty of the Legislature to afford that aid, that the committee have carefully perused the memorial of the directors of the Steam Towing company, and other citizens, and examined the statements that accompany this report; and which fully justify the committee in saying, that it is no longer a matter of speculation, whether it be practicable to keep the navigation of the Patapsco open, during all seasons, even the most inclement; for the performance of the Relief this winter, must convince the most sceptical of her entire capacity to do this; if the alterations suggested by the memorialists, be carried into effect. This opinion is fully sustained by the concurrent testimony of gentlemen engaged or interested in the navigation of vessels, as will be seen on reference to the letters marked A. B. C. in the appendix. The certainty that this would be the case, would doubtless attract many vessels to our ports, during those seasons of the year when other harbours are closed, and give an activity to our business, from which all who are engaged in raising the great staples of the State for exportation, or who supply the market of Baltimore with wood, or other articles for home consumption, would derive great and increasing advantages.

The committee have before said, that no more expense was incurred in the engine for the Relief than was deemed necessary for a fair experiment, and having satisfied themselves of its entire success, the company are anxious to substitute in place of the one they now use, two high pressure engines, of seventy five horse power each, which will render the boat perfect for the purposes for which she was originally intended. The company have represented to the