

the industry of the fishermen—as the canal would open to them new, more extensive and much better markets for their fish, than all others that are now accessible to them.

Many more sources of great profit, to the people of Maryland, will be developed by this canal, and add much to the revenue of the company. The greater part of this will most probably consist of tolls received on lumber, lime, marble, freestone, iron and fish, to the amount of \$200,000 per ann.; and on the productions of agriculture about \$200,000; and on the trade beyond Cumberland, say \$400,000; making, with the tolls on coal, estimated at \$500,000, an annual income of more than one million of dollars. Such seem to be a part of the advantages, which the early completion of the Eastern section of this canal, holds out to the acceptance of the people of Maryland. That they might all be realized the convention did not entertain a doubt. That a measure which will be fraught with so much benefit to all of her citizens, and which cannot injure any, may by her power and wisdom, be promptly executed, was the undivided wish of the whole convention.

From the facts which have already been stated, and the accompanying remarks, your honorable body will have perceived that the convention were unanimously of the opinion, that the State of Maryland might profitably, even to her treasury, subscribe the capital that is still wanting to complete the Eastern section of the canal—and of course that she might, with the most perfect safety, extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company the use of her commanding credit for that object, upon the pledge of their tolls—which will, at once, be ample to pay the interest, and soon return the principal: also, that their committee cordially concur in these opinions—and with all the feeling that should ever influence your fellow-citizens, to look with singleness of purpose to the advancement of the public welfare, when they approach the Government of their State—acting too, under a lively sense of the great responsibility that was devolved on them by the convention—and being profoundly conscious of their incompetency to perform this duty with appropriate ability, they most respectfully and earnestly invoke the aid, which the convention desires, that you should grant to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, to complete the Eastern section of their work, upon such terms, in such manner, and for such reasons, as to your better judgment may seem most fit and proper.

The people of this State once solemnly pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to gain their independence; and nobly they redeemed that pledge, unmindful of the cost. Again, to maintain the freedom of the ocean, the right undisturbedly to use that highway of nations—the people of Maryland gave the same pledge to this Union—and since the return of peace, they have paid off their quota of this nation's debt, almost unconsciously, although that quota was at least ten millions of dollars! Can it then be justly doubted, that this people would cheerfully sanction the use of their credit to complete a highway, that will attract to their territory, and accommodate much of the commerce of this nation? When, too, it is most obvious that this may be done without making any public burthen—without any risk—without making any levy, but that which those who use the work may profitably pay, in order to discharge as well the interest, as the principal of all the obligations which, in this behalf, the State might assume?