

good. They felt that they had a right to anticipate from their new associates, a corresponding degree of effort in accomplishing an object, which their interests had recommended. More particularly did they consider that inasmuch as the pecuniary interests of the Union, as the proprietor of the public domain, would be largely benefitted by this great undertaking, a liberal aid, in some degree commensurate with this benefit, would be supplied from that quarter.

The expense attending the execution of the canal from Cumberland to tide water, upon the dimensions which seemed now to be required, was estimated by the engineers of the United States at \$8,170,223 98. This enlargement of plan, and consequent augmentation of expense, had been called for by the new friends of the scheme; and it was fairly to be expected that they would liberally contribute their means to accomplish an object, which had been adopted in conformity with their wishes, and almost exclusively for the purpose of subserving their interests.

Maryland, Virginia, and the District, recognizing the advantages which would result from this change in their original design, and confiding in the hopes thus awakened, have subscribed from their public coffers and private resource about \$3,000,000 to this work; a sum amounting to a full moiety of the entire expense of the Eastern section of the canal, as estimated in the charter of incorporation, and nearly twice as much as would have completed the whole work which they had themselves contemplated, when they limited their design to what their own wants required, and their own resources would enable them to accomplish.

These parties looked to the organs by which the public feeling, the public opinion, and the public interests are, under our institutions, so faithfully expressed: they found that feeling, that opinion, and those interests coincident with their own. They heard the immediate delegates of the people, in a convention appointed to express their sentiments, designate the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal as a work of great national importance, calling for an appropriation from the National Treasury, equal to its accomplishment. They heard the Executive of the United States recommend it to the earnest consideration of the National Legislature, as an object eminently entitled to its regard, and possessing irresistible claims upon the public means to ensure its completion. They found that Congress in accordance with these views,