

no other across Parr's ridge—but the undersigned sought in vain through his field notes for the data upon which this opinion was founded; not one of the necessary elements has he given for drawing just conclusions in regard to this vexed and most important question, save only the dimensions of his canal, which is of the very smallest class.

The Undersigned, having first satisfied themselves on the accuracy of Briggs' field work, next gave their attention to ascertain the fact whether a due supply of water could be obtained.

With this view, surveys were made to determine the whole amount of water that could be brought on the summit level of either of the proposed routes and of such other routes as suggested themselves in the course of examination.

If it should be found that a sufficiency of water could not be had, then the undersigned believed that all farther examinations and surveys would be unnecessary; they did not for one moment suppose, that the idea could be seriously entertained by any one, that the Legislature should have prescribed to any company the hard conditions of carefully locating, planning and estimating the cost of a work into which, if completed, no water could be introduced without forcing it up several hundred feet and from a distance; or establishing a great laboratory on the summit, for the purpose of generating that element so *peculiarly essential to navigable canals*.

When the undersigned submitted their report of the 26th of July, they were fully authorized by the data in their possession in forming the opinions which were expressed in that document, but finding afterwards that some dissatisfaction was felt with regard to that report, they resolved to retain their parties at work in the field, for the purpose of collecting even the minutest information which could have any bearing on the subject, and place this question by divesting it of every thing like the appearance of *mere opinion* and appealing only to the common sense of all who may choose to examine it, beyond the possibility of cavil. They were fully satisfied of the correctness of their decision when that report was prepared, but wished also to satisfy others of the propriety of their course; and the Maryland Canal Company participating of the same feel-