

ing generously defrayed the expenses of the subsequent, and as far as they were concerned, unnecessary examinations. A brigade was uninterruptedly employed in the field till sometime in November, and all the office duties have not yet been finished, although rapidly advancing to completion.

The question has been asked, why did the undersigned report after so short an examination? The answer in part has been already given—and in addition they state with frankness, that being well assured, it was of the utmost importance, that if *impracticable*, the several routes under examination should be so pronounced at an early period, they by no means felt disposed after having satisfied themselves of the correctness of the opinions they were about to express, to take council of mere selfish or personal considerations.

They preferred subjecting themselves, if need be, to the censure of hasty action, rather than to cause unnecessarily the disastrous consequences that would in all probability have followed the delay to express their opinion upon a question that they were convinced admitted of but one answer. They were aware, at the same time, that there might be others who would think lightly of it, even if the whole internal improvement law had become inoperative from some neglect to observe its conditions.

But the undersigned deny the truth of the assertion, that sufficient time was not taken for their examinations prior to the 26th of July last. Be their conclusions right or wrong, the undersigned were then as they are now, perfectly satisfied that they would not, that they could not come to any other conclusion if years should be taken for surveys and for deliberation.

The subsequent surveys have not placed in their possession, any additional evidence having the least weight in their judgment either for, or against the opinion expressed by them in the report of last July.

As has been already remarked, all that has been done since that date has been with a view to satisfy others.

Under these circumstances they were much gratified to learn in November last, that the engineer appointed by the city of Baltimore, had commenced an examination of the same ground upon which they had been operating, and with the same object in view.