

canal, that would be necessary to transport it the same number of miles on its way to Georgetown.

It does appear to the undersigned that on this branch of the subject nothing more need be said, and in truth they might here dismiss the whole matter if they did not deem it due, in justice to themselves, distinctly to assert, that if agreeably to all the data assumed, the facts collected and estimates made by them; they had found a sufficiency of water upon Parr's ridge, they would unwillingly have hazarded their reputation, in pronouncing a canal to be practicable, without still further investigation for the purpose of ascertaining whether they had not in some of the elements of calculation, estimated too liberally in favor of those routes. But when they found that the case manifestly admitted of but one opinion, and that great nicety of calculation was not therefore called for, they preferred, in all their assumptions, to err rather in favor of the practicability of the canal; supposing that, by so doing, the accuracy of their conclusions would be the more readily admitted by those competent to form or express an opinion.

Since the date of their report of July 26, 1836, the undersigned have been busily engaged on other duties, that have prevented the preparation, at an earlier period, of their views, in the detailed manner in which they are now presented. They cannot but anticipate that there will be no occasion for them ever again to advert to the subject; but if otherwise they shall rejoice that some distinct and tangible plan will then be presented for consideration, to which their attention can be confined: as it is, they are now in the dark. They can imagine different plans that may be suggested for a *possible* work, but know not which, or whether any one of those which might occur to them, will be the one presented. They might, therefore, if they were now to consider them, do injustice to the views of those who may advocate the *possibility* of constructing a canal across Parr's spring ridge. If a plan should be recommended, they may or may not, according to circumstances, feel bound to examine into its merits. If facts should be ascertained, which show that they have been in error, it will be frankly acknowledged on their part, and they will willingly, and without murmur, suffer the consequences as regards their professional reputation. But if on the contrary, as they firmly