

north—and by high wages—in bringing to our work a large number of mechanics and laborers, just as we were drawing towards a close our operations upon the “27½ miles.” In this state of things, what was the course indicated by economy and good sense founded on past experience? A plain and manifest one. Place under contract the balance of the work to Cumberland, that should give employment to every mechanic and laborer, thrown out of employ from time to time by the gradual completion of the several contracts along the “27½ miles.” This the board attempted to do, but have been defeated by a want of means. Already have we witnessed the consequences to an extent that time and money only can make good. Mechanics that ought immediately to have found employment on the work above as the masonry drew to a close last fall upon the “27½ miles,” have for want of that employment left our work and gone elsewhere. Many of the laborers also, have done the same. To such an extent has this gone, that I feel confident—let what may be done now to lessen the evil consequences,—we cannot, short of a year in time,—and a continuance of high wages for a long period, make good what we have lost. I repeat, deliberately repeat it, as my firm belief,—that our work could have been finished to Cumberland one year sooner than it now will be,—if our operations could have gone on without the existing embarrassments from a want of means. And that with this extension of time, will be connected the necessity of keeping up high wages to induce men to come back to our work—although produce may fall, and wages be reduced elsewhere. Immediate relief, though it cannot remedy the past, may yet do much to lessen the anticipated and dreaded consequences of the present state of affairs.

As evidence in part of some of the preceding remarks, I will give the amount of work done per month above Dam No. 5, ever since the commencement of the “27 1-2 miles.” The statement will shew how slowly and gradually we were able to increase the force upon the work, under the various difficulties that were to be contended with.

The amount of work in the first month of operations, August, 1835, was,	\$8,993
In the three next months of September, October, and November, 1835, the amount of work per month, was	21,068
In December, 1835, and January and February, 1836, (in winter there is always less done per month) the amount of work, per month, was	17,356
In March, April and May, 1836, per month	31,201
In June, July and August, 1836, per month	43,911
In September, October and November, 1836, per month	45,055
In December, 1836, and January and February, 1837, (winter month—see remark above,) per	