

ing as we do the great advantages and facilities which they give to the use of such works; and knowing that the plans of the United States' Engineers contemplate a basin in Georgetown, although they had not been specially charged to report upon such an appendage but from their skill and good judgment, their minds were decided upon the importance of a basin at the termination of the canal. Assuming these premises, the question is, where can a basin be formed with the best economy, combining the greatest advantages, and giving the greatest benefits and facilities to the use of the canal? We can readily answer, that in our opinion the mouth of Rock creek unites more advantages, is more economical and more useful, and gives greater facilities than any other place between that point and the head of tide water. The advantages of a basin at any other place above Georgetown, would tend to remove the business to it, and injure or destroy Georgetown and Washington, so far as to make the vessels which navigate the Potomac below Georgetown, go up to the basin to receive and deposit their lading: the warehouses would be there, and the business of the canal would be there.

It may be said by some persons not conversant with the form and construction and manner of using the most approved canal boats, that the boats might descend into the river at some point below the old locks, and float down or be towed down to Washington, or Georgetown and Alexandria. This it is true, might be done, but it would be attended with risk and extra expense and delay, and would be found very inconvenient and injurious to the economy and usefulness of this great undertaking.

It may be said that it is expensive forcing the canal through Georgetown; this is true—but it ought to be considered that as there has been no plan by any Engineer contemplated without a basin, as the United States' Engineer is contemplated a basin near the market in Georgetown: the question arises whether the advantages of carrying the canal from the market to Rock creek, are not greater than all the expenses? We believe that the value of the mole and basin at Rock creek when completed will be much greater than the expense of making the canal and mole from the market to Rock creek. We believe it money well laid out or invested, if the company choose to sell their right and privileges on the mole and basin (and without interfering in any way with the navigation of the canal,) more money might be obtained