

tioned. It is of course not proposed to authorise any earlier or larger call on the United States, than will be actually proportioned to the demands upon other stockholders, for the quotas of their respective subscriptions.

It is designed, in expediting the completion of the first or eastern, to hasten the commencement of the western section of the canal; and, by thus reaching the coal banks of the Allegany in the shortest possible time, to render the expended stock productive at the earliest practicable period.

Your memorialists avail themselves of this occasion for applying to your honorable body for your assent to certain alterations of the charter of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, which they have sought, by contemporaneous applications to the Legislatures of the states of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland. For the character and objects of these, they beg leave to refer to the annexed memorial, recently presented to the last of those states, and to the subjoined copies of the acts of the Legislatures of those states, referred to in the last clauses of that memorial.

The undersigned beg leave to add, in farther explanation of the last purpose, common to these memorials, that the relaxation of the acts of the Legislature of Virginia, which superseded the necessity of any farther legislation on the part of that state, in relation to this purpose, has occurred since the cession of the city and county of Alexandria to the United States; and that they would fain hope it may accord with the wisdom of Congress to enact uniform laws respecting the condition of slaves, on both sides of the river Potomac, within the District of Columbia.

Finally, the undersigned beg leave to suggest, that, in this second appeal to the attention of your honorable body, they have sought to keep separate and distinct objects independent in their characters, and which could not have been united without injury to each other. What their former memorial asked was for the immediate interests of the cities of Washington and Alexandria, as well as of the United States, and has been invited in fulfilment of a specific engagement; what they now solicit is essential to the prosperity of the common enterprise entrusted to their supervision and control, under the char-