

which it was expected, would have a similar operation in Maryland. With regard to the additional subscription by the city of Baltimore, it was not in the power of the committee to say more than they believed it would be made if necessary—the mode of making the subscription available was of course undetermined, and and presented in our conversations the question of greatest doubt. The committee further expressed the belief, that if the subscriptions in question could not be made available this year, they might the next; and even if not made available until the year after, there would be still time to complete the work, without asking an extension of the charter from Pennsylvania.

The committee further stated, that to accomplish the great object in view, to make available the resources of the company, and to complete the road, there should be at its head one in whom the stockholders and the public alike had confidence, and whose talents, ability and weight in the community would be most important, if not absolutely essential to the success of any measure to make available that subscription of the State, and the city of Baltimore, upon which the completion of the work depended. Such an individual, the public, as it was and still is understood, the stockholders and the board of directors, believed to be yourself. That there would be difficulty in your way, that you incurred some risk, was admitted; but the committee believed, that with a proper person, such as yourself, at the head of the company, there was a fair probability, a reasonable hope of success. Their reasons for this hope, they detailed in their communications with you, and they are here stated. The motives that would, it was expected, operate upon the Legislature to relax the restriction on the sale of the State's stock, were operating in other states, inducing them to adopt the internal improvement system, and could be appreciated by you as well as by the committee; and the mode of making the city subscription available depended upon circumstances connected with the ability and reputation of the city, its present debt and the state of the money market, with which the committee could not make you better acquainted than you already were. The city deemed the work a vital one, and it was believed, would do every thing in its power to accomplish it.

The question now is, whether you can, under these circumstances, accept the situation that is tendered to you—whether you can see such a reasonable hope of success as will justify you in incurring the risk which you may think you will run. It is not expected in Baltimore that you are to make the road simply by becoming the president of the company; but should you accept the offer, the conviction here will exist, that if the road can be made you will make it; and that, at all events, there will be one at the head of the company, who, with all the talent, ability and reputation that is necessary, will be ready to avail himself of those changes in affairs which often ensure success even when it seems most doubtful. To dwell upon the confidence that the road will be made, and the conviction of its absolute necessity, which are felt