

to be done under the contract) to be omitted by the contractors and the estimated cost thereof to be in like manner deducted from the consideration ; and they have made a contract with the said Cresap, by which, for the sum of \$5,000 paid to him in the bonds of the Company, such as are paid to the contractors, he releases the Company from the obligation to construct said works, and from all claims or supposed claims for damage he may have against the Company, &c. By the change of plan in regard to the Locks, and the omission of the works above mentioned, there will be at a moderate estimate about \$20,000 deducted from the consideration of the contract, but, as has been stated, \$5,000 of this amount have been paid in Bonds to Cresap, under the arrangement for dispensing with the works, leaving the residue as the nett saving to the Company. There are some other arrangements of a similar character in contemplation which it is thought may be made with equal advantage to the Company. They will be attended to in due season.

The general contract for the completion of the Canal has been found adapted to every contingency that has arisen, and works well in practice. The monthly payments in Bonds have been made by the Company in conformity with its provisions, with promptness and regularity. The money arrangements entered into by the contractors, or their agents and attorneys, to meet the expenses of the work, have, as we are advised, been punctually carried into effect by the parties connected with them, and judging from the past operations the consideration in Bonds, stipulated to be paid under the contract, appears to be amply sufficient for the fulfilment of the undertaking.

It only, therefore, remains with the contractors, or their agents and attorneys who have assumed the duty of carrying the contract into execution on their behalf, to press forward the work to completion, with due vigor and efficiency. We are constrained to say, that during the year 1848, the force employed on the line was not as large as was desirable, although urgent appeals were made for its increase. It is true, that for a part of the time, severe sickness prevailed among the laborers, and it was difficult to procure additional hands or even to retain those employed ; but we think, that in the Spring months, and in the Fall after the frosts had produced a return of a healthy atmosphere, a larger force, than the one engaged, might reasonably have expected. Both the contractors, however, who undoubtedly have a large interest at stake, and their agents and attorneys, have uniformly expressed the opinion, that the work was progressing with sufficient rapidity to ensure the entire completion by the time indicated in the contract, and they still, with increased confidence, give that assurance, provided no unusual cause of interruption supervenes.

We are gratified in being able to say, that, within the last two months, they have afforded some evidence of their determination to fulfil their promises, in this regard. The estimate of work done in the month of April 1849, when the spring operations fairly