

the District over which Congress exercises exclusive jurisdiction. And when it is considered, that this improvement, originally projected to terminate at the coal banks within our borders, was, at the suggestion of the federal government, and under its auspices, enlarged to a work of indisputable national character, extending beyond our limits and terminating upon the navigable waters of the west; that upon the faith of this change and the promise which it held out of the continuing favor and patronage of the general government, individuals as well as the District, cities and the states more immediately interested were induced to embark their capital to the amount of millions: it should not be doubted that such further aid will be granted. With equal confidence we may indulge the hope, that liberal contributions will be made to accomplish this great undertaking, by the other states concerned.

The course to be pursued by Maryland in reference to the deep interest which she has in this work, and especially as now connected with the prosperity of her great commercial emporium—the City of Baltimore—is left entirely to your decision, in perfect confidence, that it will be regulated by a just and liberal regard to the wants and interests of our common constituents.

The lateral Rail Road from Baltimore to Washington is rapidly advancing towards completion, and promises, at an early day, to be a prolific source of revenue to the state, as well as eminently promotive of the general convenience and public prosperity. It is deeply to be regretted, that scenes of riot and lawless outrage should have frequently occurred among the laborers on this road, and also on the line of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, making it necessary, on more than one occasion, during the past season, to call out a portion of the military of the state, to quell the rioters and restore the supremacy of the laws. These calls have been obeyed with a promptitude and alacrity worthy of all praise.

The accompanying interesting reports of Brigadier General Charles Sterett Ridgely, who commanded the forces employed in quelling the most formidable and alarming of these riots, are submitted for your information, and afford indubitable evidence of the zeal, fidelity and ability, with which his own duties, and those of the officers and men generally under his command, were discharged.