

MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable the Senate

and House of Delegates of Maryland :

The undersigned has read with respectful attention the memorial heretofore presented to your Honorable Bodies, by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, asking a modification of the charter of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Company, taking from that company the power conferred by its charter of making a lateral road to the District of Columbia; and now proposes to reply to so much of that memorial as he may deem necessary, to present the subject fairly to your consideration. He is fully impressed with the inequality of the contest. On the one side you have the power, influence, patronage and money of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, and still more, the great ability and well deserved popularity of its President. On the other you have the humble individual who signs this paper as the President of a road which, like its more powerful rival, is the creature of the Legislature, but which has no power, no money, no patronage to aid in bringing to your consideration its title to your protection against the overshadowing power and, as the undersigned must be permitted to say with all respect, the overweening assumption of superior rights and privileges by the *Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company*. Both of these companies are the mere creatures of the Legislature. The one was incorporated and brought into existence by the Act of 1826, chapter 123, and has, by the large pecuniary aid extended to it by the State in its earlier history, achieved a great success. The other road was chartered in 1853, and it is true, as stated in the memorial under consideration, that, until recently, no capitalists "have been willing to contract for its completion;" but this may be attributed to the gigantic civil war which has deluged the land with blood, and has, by its consequent destruction of labor, reduced to penury a people as noble as any within the limits of your State. It is also true, as stated in the memorial, that the chartered privilege of making a lateral branch of the road to the National Capital, is the great inducement which has enabled