

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

I have received a copy of the Address of the President of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company to the Board of Directors on the 12th December last. Associated during the best years of my life with the extension of that noble work from Cumberland to the Ohio river, it affords me pleasure to recognize under its present able management, the steady progress which it is fast making, towards the accomplishment of its great destiny, and the realization of the most sanguine hopes of its founders.

Within the past year, it has paid into the Treasury of the State \$760,088.70.

The liberal policy indicated by the President, meets my cordial approval. Controlling without a rival, the wealth of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, the value of this road to the State of Maryland cannot be too highly estimated. A large amount of capital has been expended and much work done, since the last Annual Report, in giving increased power and efficiency to the road. The second track has steadily advanced. Some of the most important tunnels on the North Western Branch have been permanently arched—the control of the Winchester road has been secured, and a most valuable arrangement, mutually advantageous to both roads, entered into with the Central Ohio Rail Road Company for the future working of that important line, affording increased inducements for the most favorable combinations with the leading roads converging at Columbus and the centre of the rich table lands of Ohio. With the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Road complete, which I look for at no distant day, in spite of the jealousies which have heretofore retarded its advance—the intersection of the Ohio river at Wheeling and Parkersburg already accomplished, and the certain occupation of the Valley of Virginia and the appropriation at a still lower point, of the great arteries of the South West, I shall look with renewed pride, not only upon the energy and perseverance of our people to which we are indebted for all this, but to the impregnable position in which through their indomitable efforts and wise foresight they have placed the great commercial centre of our State. In connection with this subject it affords me pleasure to note the active preparations now in progress to complete the Metropolitan Road, from Washington to the Point of Rocks, and the probable opening of the Branch to Hagerstown as early as September next.

Both the Northern Central Rail Road Company, and the Susquehanna and Tide Water Canal Company have promptly met their interest to the State.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company is also giving evidence of more encouraging results than have heretofore