

BALTIMORE, March 4th, 1876.

ALEX. J. MARSHALL, ESQ.

*Dear Sir:*—I have read the papers which you placed in my hands, and which describe your "new method" of deepening and so enlarging the capacity of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal by raising the banks instead of lowering the bottom by excavation. You have well set forth the great difficulty and expense which would attend the latter plan and the superior advantages in every way of adopting the former, which is indeed most obviously the proper mode of accomplishing the object in view. That an increase of depth in the canal from its present nominal one of six feet (or the actual one of not much over five at many points) to one of seven feet would vastly augment the tonnage bearing capability of the work, and promote economy of transportation upon it, cannot be questioned, and that the interest of Maryland and her commercial capital also, (if it be extended to Baltimore,) would be greatly advanced by it, none can for a moment doubt. I do not feel prepared to express an opinion as to the sufficiency of your estimates of the art of accomplishing these important purposes, nor of the financial measures by which you propose to secure them, but that your scheme deserves the earnest attention of the State, Legislative and Executive authorities, all must admit, and that your zeal in so meritorious a cause may not go unrewarded is the sincere wish of,

Yours, very truly,

BENJ. H. LATROBE,

Civil Engineer.

Which was read and referred to the Committee on Internal Improvements, and,

On motion by Mr. Steiner,

Was ordered to be entered on the Journal.

Mr. Stevens, from the Committee on Judicial Proceedings, reported favorably,

Senate bill entitled an Act to prevent trespassing upon railroad cars.

Which was read the first time.

Also, unfavorably,

House bill entitled an Act to repeal Section 67 of Article 30 of the Code of Public General Laws, title "Crimes and Punishments," sub-title "Gunning," and to re-enact a substitute therefor.

Which was adopted.

Mr. McCulloh, from Committee on Corporations, reported favorably the following bills :