

the practicability of uniting the western with the eastern waters, through this channel. The practicability of the task has been clearly determined, as well as the facility with which connections can be continued from the Potomac to the Patapsco on one hand, and from the Ohio to the Lakes on the other, thereby effecting much the shortest water communication between the sea ports of the Atlantic, and the vast territories of the west. No one who considers the advantages, political as well as commercial, which would result from such a connection, can doubt for a moment its ultimate accomplishment.

The course of the Potomac, from its source to Cumberland, a distance of 140 miles, is North-East. It here reaches within four or five miles of the Pennsylvania line, to which width the territory of Maryland is reduced for some distance. Thence the Potomac taking a S. E. direction, and receiving in its course the south or larger branch of that river, and the Shenandoah, from the Virginia side, and the Antietum and Monocacy from the Maryland side, reaches tide water at Georgetown, three miles above Washington, and 188 miles below Cumberland. In this distance there are five falls. 1st, Little Falls 37 feet, six miles above Washington—2d, nine miles higher up is the Great falls, of 76 feet—3d, six miles further up, is the Seneca Falls, a rapid descending about 10 feet—4th, the Shenandoah Falls of 15 feet high, is sixty