

*To the Honorable*

*The House of Delegates of Maryland.*

The committee to whom the House referred a leave to report a bill to lease the interest of the State of Maryland, in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and a bill entitled an act concurring the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, has given to the whole subject that particular attention that its obvious importance requires.

The occasion does not seem to call for a general enquiry into the causes which have combined to disappoint the expectations of those who, originated the public policy in Maryland, of which the Canal was one of the fruits. It is not for the committee to applaud or condemn the measures which have so unfortunately lead to that lavish expenditure of the money of the people of the State, which all good citizens must deplore. The committee believes that the House in referring the subject for consideration had in view a more definite object. The Canal in its present condition notoriously serves no great public purposes. It has never since the work was extended to Cumberland, had sufficient trade to pay for repairs and officers salaries. The work is known to be so incomplete, that capitalists have been deterred from embarking largely, in any business that would for its success depend on transportation upon the Canal. This condition of affairs is well understood in that section of Maryland which this improvement was designed to develop. Unfortunately equally accurate information on the subject does not pervade the whole State. Residents at a distance from the Canal derive all they know, through the medium of parties too often interested in disseminating erroneous opinions. And consequently, no matter how wise, salutary or even indispensable, any bill may be that the House have to act upon, its passage is impeded by parties who disguise, their personal object, or selfish purpose, under pretences of an earnest desire to promote the public interests. To guard against misapprehension on the subject, on this occasion, the committee have resorted to the fountain head from which correct information must flow. We have appended to our report tabular statements, illustrating the condition of this canal that may be implicitly confided in. They are founded upon information derived from the books of this Canal company. And in themselves, furnish, the committee believe, the best evidence that