

academy, praying the donation may not be withdrawn from the same; referred to the committee appointed on that subject.

Mr. Willson presents a petition from Samuel Griffith; referred to the committee on pensions and revolutionary claims.

Mr. Linthecum presents a petition from Harriet Hanlon; Mr. Gantt presents a petition from Walter Gental; and Mr. Willson presents a petition from Herson Pritchett, of Montgomery county, each praying for support; referred to the standing committee.

Mr. Gantt presents a petition from Seth Warfield, junr. of Anne-Arundel county, praying relief; referred to Messrs. Gantt, Estep and Linthecum.

Mr. Merrick from the committee on internal improvements delivers the following report.

The committee appointed to consider of the internal improvement of the State, have carefully weighed the important interests with which they were charged, and submit for the consideration of the house a bill entitled, "An act to create a board of public works;" and a bill, entitled, An act for the promotion of internal improvement

At this enlightened day, an elaborate argument to shew that roads and canals are beneficial, would seem as needless, as an endeavour to prove that the condition of Man is bettered by civilization, law and religion.

That the prosperity of our citizens individually, and the wealth and dignity of the State of Maryland, will be eminently promoted, and the bond of general union strengthened, by the junction of the waters of the Chesapeake and Ohio, by a canal terminating at Baltimore—that the accomplishment of an ascending navigation in the Susquehanna would promote directly the population and wealth of Baltimore, and indirectly of all the region of which she is the mart, are propositions so often and so ably urged upon the consideration of the public, and in themselves so evident, that we have feared to offend, by any attempt to enforce them, in this report.

Two considerations are understood to have hitherto prevented the State of Maryland from entering on that course of policy which has been so nobly and so beneficially pursued by several of her sister States; the low and embarrassed state of the treasury, and the local jealousy between Baltimore and the Potomac region.

The committee of ways and means have demonstrated, that the last dollar of the public debt has been discharged. That without adding any new sources of revenue or enlarging the direct tax, (which is now but forty thousand dollars on a population of more than four hundred thousand,) after providing amply for all the ordinary expenditures, an annual surplus in the treasury may be calculated on, of more than one hundred thousand dollars; a sum sufficient to pay the interest on any amount which it is proposed for the State to invest in public works. These positions are so conclusively established, that more than a reference to that able report were on our part superfluous.

To sooth, as far as practicable, all sectional jealousies, it has been the earnest endeavour of the committee to devise a plan, which would secure, as nearly as practicable, equality of benefit to all.

That plan is embraced in the bills herewith submitted. We shall briefly here rehearse their leading features. The first, provides for the creation of a board of public works, to consist of nine members, the governor being ex officio president.

The board is to be authorised to engage engineers, and other pro-