

tors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company to avail themselves of a privilege granted to the former, and which, in the progress of their labour, especially during the unhealthy seasons of the year, may prove of essential benefit to the company, by enabling the contractors to complete their work in the stipulated periods.

It was the intention of the undersigned to obtain a similar indulgence of the General Assembly of Virginia, and accordingly they embraced, in their memorial, now depending before that Legislature, a corresponding request. In answer, they are informed, that for several years past, there has been no restraint imposed by the laws of that Commonwealth, on the importation of slaves from other States, and the reason assigned for this seeming relaxation of the former laws of that State is, that the current of exportation, setting strongly to the south of Virginia, as it does of Maryland, the policy of the State being to reduce the number of her coloured population, requires the aid of her example in opening her own door to receive the slaves of other States, in order to induce its imitation in those States who might otherwise be led to impose restraints upon their admission. The ground of this policy, the undersigned have presumed to present to your honorable body, as affording an answer to any objection which possibly might arise, to an act explanatory of the privilege extended to the Potomac Company, by the wisdom of your predecessors.

Signed.

C. F. MERCER, *Pres.*  
 PHINEAS JANNEY,  
 JOSEPH KENT,  
 PETER LENOX,  
 FREDERICK MAY,  
 WALTER SMITH,  
 ANDREW STEWART,  
*Directors.*

Office of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company.  
 Washington. January 1st, 1829.