

REPORT

OF THE

Committee on Internal Improvement.

The committee on Internal Improvements has been charged with the consideration of the memorial of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company; The memorial of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, opposed to certain statements therein contained; numerous memorials praying that no additional right to sell water power may be granted to the Canal Company, and others invoking the Legislature to use means to compel the Canal Company to permit the construction of the Rail Road, through the narrow passes of the Potomac from the Point of rocks to Harper's Ferry; and finding these subjects closely interwoven together, submit as the result of their deliberations upon them, the following report:

The attention of the committee was first by the magnitude of the interests concerned, as well as by the order of the House of the 11th ultimo, drawn to the difficulties existing between the two great works, the Canal and Rail Road, by which the progress of the latter work has been interrupted. The better to understand these difficulties, and to ascertain whether it yet be possible to remove them, the ground has been visited and carefully observed from the Point of Rocks to Harper's Ferry, and the committee is under the full conviction, that even now, at no unreasonable sacrifice of the interest, convenience or public utility of the Canal, effect may be given to both the grants of Maryland, by affording to the Rail Road on the land side of the Canal, a passage through the difficult passes mentioned; and whatever sacrifice shall be required of the Canal Company to produce that result, while your committee rejoices that it cannot be great, it finds further consolation in the knowledge that such sacrifice has been rendered necessary by the voluntary and uncontrolled acts of the Canal Company itself.