

The difficulty was seriously felt of procuring, at the advanced period of the year, competent engineers to supervise the works already begun, and to prepare to extend the operations of the company higher up the Potomac. It was not until late in the following October, that 50 additional sections, comprehending the remaining space between the head of Seneca Falls and the "Point of Rocks" could be let. On the 23d, 24th, and 25th of that month, 1,308 proposals were received for these sections, and the various works of masonry upon the entire portion of the new canal between the Kitoctan mountain and its junction with the old Potomac canal, near the head of the Little Falls. Contracts for the masonry on the part of this line, let in the preceding August, had been delayed to await the discovery of stone in convenient situations, and of hydraulic lime of suitable quality, if to be found in the valley of the Potomac. Special agents were deputed to examine both shores of the river for these purposes; and the result of their labors, when ascertained, was published for the benefit of the contractors, prior to the October letting. On the 5th of December, the residue of the line of the canal, being a space of about five miles, between the Little Falls and the contemplated basin at the mouth of the creek separating Georgetown from Washington, was distributed into eight sections, and placed under contract, together with two dams across the Potomac, at Seneca and the Little Falls, designed to supply the canal with water from the river.

The ninety two sections thus let, are comprised in the five residences herewith exhibited, and which illustrate, as well the work actually done, as that required to complete the first 48 miles of the canal. In this distance are embraced two considerable aqueducts, about 60 culverts, 2 dams, 27 locks, 17 lock keepers' houses, and several basins; among them one of great capacity at the termination of the canal, sustained by an extensive mole, through which a tide lock is designed to connect the navigation of the canal with that of the river Potomac, and its outlet to the ocean, the Chesapeake Bay.

In the investigation instituted by the Board, to ascertain the true position of the basin, in which it was proposed by the United States' Engineers to terminate the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and which had been referred to as well in the report of Dr. Howard, a Civil Engineer to the Executive Government of Maryland, as in the proceedings of several committees of Congress, and the