

plans, recommended, at various times, for the same canal, Messrs. Geddes & Roberts, Civil Engineers, of established character, the last of whom, now in the service of this Company, has been, successively, in that of the three States most distinguished in the career of internal improvement, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, in a careful estimate of their probable cost, applied to the same ground, have computed the least in size, that of 40 feet breadth and four feet depth, at 21,461 87 the mile, for a distance of 186 miles and three quarters; the next at \$23,191 38, and the largest, having a depth of five feet, at \$23,985 79. The largest differs in dimensions, from that preferred by this Board, in depth only. The breadth, at their surface, is the same, and that of their bottoms is determined by their depth, the inclination of their inner slopes being the same.

The urgent duties cast upon the Engineers of the Company, by the final location and superintendence of the canal, after it was placed under contract, concurred with the manifest expediency of leaving, still open, small deviations from the line assumed for it, to delay the preparatory surveys for condemning the lands required for the use of the canal, where voluntary concessions, or reasonable purchases of the necessary ground, could not be made.

It was very soon apparent, that the expectation of large indemnities had arisen among the proprietors of the ground, and materials required for the canal, with the progress of the canal itself, and the certainty of its ultimate success. Efforts had been abortively made to profit by the uncertain hopes which preceded this state of absolute assurance. It was difficult to make them, with precision, as to the ground to be surrendered, because the final location of the canal, by the Engineer charged with it, remained uncertain 'till the moment of contracting for its execution, and, even for some time after, so that promises, antecedently given, might be afterwards easily evaded. Some patriotic individuals, in the spirit of that provision of the charter of the company, which now constitutes part of the standing law and usage of every State distinguished in the career of internal improvement, voluntarily surrendered their lands, without price, in the hope of aiding the company by the influence of their example. But the far greater number early indicated a disposition to exact prices for their property, which left the President and Directors no alternative,