

Memorials were presented to the Legislatures of the several States who are parties to the charter of the Company, and to the Congress of the United States, on the various topics recommended by the stockholders, and in relation to others suggested by the wants of the Company, as the progress of the canal developed their importance. These memorials contemplated the exclusion of any constructive rights in any quarter, above the limits of Georgetown, to force the Company to establish a bridge across the canal, where, in the opinion of the President and Directors, it was inexpedient to do so; the acquisition of a right to dispose of grounds formed by heavy embankments on the margin of the canal, or of lands previously acquired by compromises entered into with the proprietors of the Potomac shores, to obviate the necessity of any other intercourse across the canal than by water, and the authority to draw supplies of water from the main river, in certain places, for manufacturing purposes as well as for navigation, and to dispose of suitable sites for the former.

A favorable report upon the memorial to the General Assembly of Virginia, asking a subscription to the stock of the Company, was accompanied by a bill, which was not, however, finally disposed of before the rising of that body, authorising a subscription of \$400,000 to the stock of this Company, and of \$100,000 to that of the Alexandria branch from the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

A favorable report was also made by a committee of the House of Representatives, on the memorial from this Board, and committee of the citizens of Alexandria, asking of Congress a charter to authorise the construction of that branch. Upon the contemporaneous memorial of the Board, inviting from Congress an extension of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, from its highest level in Georgetown, along the rear of Washington, to the Navy Yard, on the Eastern Branch, no report was made, in consequence of the delay of the survey and estimate for such a canal, and the difficulty of maturing the details of any bill upon the subject, without the aid of the Executive Department of the Government. This Department was earnestly invited to co-operate in their views, presented by the memorial, of the future bearing of the proposed canal upon the naval defences of the Chesapeake, and of its numerous rivers and harbors.

An explanatory act to authorise the canal contractors to employ Virginia slaves along the shore of Maryland in prosecution of their work, was invited from that state