

the erection of the bridge, it has been deemed advisable to incur the former, with a view to avoid the latter and larger expenditure. The committee is of opinion that the reasons which have been assigned are entirely satisfactory; and, while it is believed that no difference of opinion exists among its members, as to the expediency, in every point of view, of any application of the funds of the company to the purchase of property of any description, or to any objects not essentially necessary to the construction, preservation, and full enjoyment of the canal itself, without view to collateral speculations upon water sites, or warehouses, or similar objects, they concur entirely in the propriety of procuring, in full ownership, all that which is so required.

The controversy between the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company and the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, which has existed since the birth of these two institutions, has attracted the earliest interest of the committee. While they entertain the utmost confidence in the legality of the claims of the Canal Company, and look forward, with scarcely a shadow of doubt or apprehension, to a final decision in its favor, various considerations have rendered it highly desirable, in their estimation, to have these controversies adjusted in an amicable manner, with a view to prevent the expenditure of money and of time, which can neither be avoided nor reimbursed, if they are to await the slow course of the law. Under these impressions it has afforded great and sincere gratifications to the committee to perceive that the President and Directors of the Canal Company, inspired with the same feelings, have invited such an amicable adjustment of the disputes which have occurred, and have promptly met the wishes of the Rail Road Company, so far as this did not involve a surrender of the rights and interests of the institution with which they were connected. The communication, from one of the most zealous friends of the Baltimore Company, which will be found annexed to this report (A,) appears to have been met in a spirit of conciliation; and it is to be regretted that the feelings which that letter breathes, and which were so fully reciprocated, did not result in an amicable settlement of this unfortunate controversy, or even produce a reply to the communication which it elicited from the Board of the Canal Company, which is also annexed (B). The committee have been much gratified at finding that, however desirable it be that a good understanding