

select, as the eastern termination of their work, any point on the tide water within the District of Columbia.

It would be easy to show that this interpretation is conformable to the usage of the best writers and speakers, and the universal understanding of all who employ the English language. The particles at, to, and from, do not necessarily or even commonly exclude the object with which they are used in connexion. To say of an individual that he is going to Europe, coming from Europe, or now at London, cannot be understood to limit the action or residence to the line which forms the exterior of those places. Numerous other illustrations of this idea will readily suggest themselves to all who will reflect upon the subject: it will therefore be unnecessary to extend this branch of remark.

It does, however, seem more important to bring under consideration the practical interpretation which this form of expression has received from those who have employed it, or with their immediate sanction. This will also, it is hoped, furnish a satisfactory answer to the second objection. In December, 1784, a meeting was held at Annapolis, between Commissioners appointed by the state of Virginia, viz: General Washington and General Gates, and a Committee of the Legislature of Maryland. The first point upon which they determined was, as to the expediency of making the Potomac navigable "from tide water" upwards. The Virginia act in relation to the Potomac Company, passed in October, 1784, employs the same expression in its preamble, and again in its fourth section, and similar language will be found in the various other acts of the Legislatures of Maryland and Virginia. Under these acts the Potomac Company did carry on their works to the distance of more than a mile below the point which is the head of tide water, and all the works and property of this Potomac Company have been, under the authority of the charters of this institution, transferred to, and vested in, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company. Under those charters, then, it is clear, that property and rights suitable for, and essential to, a canal company, but extending a considerable distance below what is called the head of the tide, belong to this institution.

The act of Congress authorising a subscription to the stock of the company, contains a proviso which is in the nature of a condition, which prescribes the elevation of a section of this canal from the head of the Little Falls to