

valleys of the Monocacy and the Conewago, will add to the resources of the former, the productions of the Susquehannah, and an inland water communication, by means of its rapidly extending canals with those of New-York, and with the canals now leading from the mouth of Swatara to Philadelphia, through the valley of the Schuylkill.

To the white oak, the locust, the cedar, and the fir tree of the eastern waters, will be added, by an unimpeded and secure navigation, the live oak of Florida and Louisiana; to the iron of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, the salt petre and water-rotted hemp of Kentucky, the lead of Illinois and Missouri, and the copper of the Lakes, the provisions of the Ohio, and the mineral coal of the intermediate mountains.

To collect these materials on the margin of the Eastern Branch, and to fit them for use, in the prompt construction or repair and equipment of vessels, under the eye of the Navy Department, would be the office of this branch of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, leading to the Navy Yard of Washington, from the nearest point of the elevated canal in Georgetown.

If this Branch be immediately constructed, it will encounter but few, if any obstacles, from the intervening improvements of a growing city. As these shall be multiplied by its progress, so will they be, also, adapted to its plan and direction. Unobstructed by a lock or a toll gatherer, and offering the cheapest and easiest intercourse at all times of the day and night, to the inhabitants of two growing cities, such an improvement will serve as a lasting monument of the beneficence of the Federal Government, to a people who, having, in obedience to the wishes of their parent States, surrendered to it their political rights of suffrage and representation, can appeal to its justice or munificence only by persuasion.

Your memorialists proceed to the second duty charged upon them. The same considerations which recommend the construction of dry docks upon the Eastern Branch, on an enlarged scale, for the speedy preparation of ships for actual service in time of war, apply, it is believed, with equal, if not superior force, to the erection of such docks on the main river, in the harbor of Alexandria, from whence fewer obstructions would be encountered by ships of the larger class in descending the Potomac to the Chesapeake. To the objection which has been applied to