

both strions, that the descent of these ships would be along a crooked channel, the multiplication of steam boats on the Potomac will be, it is presumed, a sufficient answer. Should it be, as your memorialists hope, the pleasure of Congress to favor, by pecuniary aid, the construction of the contemplated branch from the stem of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to Alexandria, the accompanying memorial from the Mayor and Common Council of that town, soliciting the incorporation of a joint stock company, with authority to construct such a branch, will afford an opportunity of extending such aid in the same mode in which the wisdom and liberality of the Federal Legislature has already assured the success of several great national works.

The utility of the main canal, from which this branch is to lead, cannot fail to be much augmented by supplying a third market for the numerous and diversified productions which are destined to descend the valley of the Potomac, and another inlet for their valuable returns from abroad.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company comprehend many citizens of Virginia as well as of Maryland. They have now assigned to them, under the sanction of existing laws, the chartered rights of a prior company which the States of Maryland and Virginia incorporated, by their joint act, in the first years of their independence, and to whose stock those States contributed for the sake of the markets which they have since ceded to the General Government.

Your memorialists trust, that, in referring to the double grant which conveyed to the Congress of the United States this important District, embracing then, as it still does, the only markets of the Potomac and its tributaries, they may be allowed to add, that the inhabitants of Virginia who disposed of their productions in Alexandria, while that town formed part of their native Commonwealth, still feel a solicitude for its prosperity, with which, indeed, their own is in no small degree identified.

There is, however, too much reason to apprehend that, unless the citizens of Alexandria, severed as they are from their parent State; for the benefit of the Union, shall receive its countenance and favor, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, to which they have liberally contributed their funds, in conjunction with their neighbors of George-