

estimate, will be effected on the residue of the line below the Blue Ridge.

A part of the saving of expense effected by the late contract is, indeed, due to a total change of what is technically termed, in the sense of a word of American origin, the *location* of the canal. In the route proposed by the United States' engineers, and followed by the civil engineers who succeeded them, from the Great Falls towards the District, for several miles, the canal line passed near the margin of the river, and in contact with its rocky cliffs. In that recently adopted by Messrs Wright and Martineau, and which is shorter, by near half a mile, than the former, the line of the canal leaves the margin of the river at very high elevation next below the Great Falls, and thence gradually descends through a few miles of favorable ground to the river shore again. But that this, though in part, is not the sole cause of the reduction of price, is manifest from a comparison of the average prices and amounts in value, of the several species of the work involved in the contract already made, with the corresponding estimates of Messrs. Geddes and Roberts for the same work.

In relation to the improved location of so much of the canal, and the reduction of its cost, it is but just to remark, that the late survey could not but have profited by the prior suggestions of those surveys which preceded it; and that Messrs. Geddes and Roberts entered as umpires between the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Convention and the United States' Board of Internal Improvement, upon the review of estimates on the one hand somewhat less, indeed, but on the other, very greatly exceeding their own. And in relation to the last two estimates, if the contract price falls short of the lowest of them, it is to be remarked, that the contracts follow a very abundant harvest of almost every species of food for men and animals. This advantage will be common to all the contracts to be executed in the ensuing year, and constitutes of itself a strong argument in favor, not only of the most rapid prosecution of the whole work, but of its immediate execution on the most approved plan.

Much is expected of that line of uninterrupted communication by water, which is universally acknowledged, as it is demonstrated to be, the shortest that can be devised, between the tide of the Atlantic, the valley of the Ohio, and the shores of the great northern lakes; an internal communication which is destined to be the great connecting link of those inland seas with the Gulf of Mexi-