

Your memorialists did not interfere, in their individual capacity, when it was publicly announced that certain public spirited individuals in Maryland sought a charter of the states of Maryland and Virginia to construct a railway from Baltimore to the Ohio, because no interference with the charter, already obtained by much and long continued labor on the part of "the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Convention," was apprehended. The gentlemen who asked the charter for a railway, disapproving of the circuitous route of the canal, directed the public attention to a wholly distinct path for their enterprise. While their contemplated railway preserved this character, the members of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Convention, and the Central Committee of that Convention, especially charged to watch over its interests, not only did not interfere with the wishes of the friends of the railway, but as is known to your memorialists, favored their applications for a charter, both in Maryland and Virginia.

The accompanying extracts from the pamphlet first announcing the intended application for this charter illustrate and confirm the truth of this statement, and have an important bearing on the apprehensions of your memorialists.

If reference be had to the interest of the United States in the stock of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, and to the annexed terms of the charters of both companies, no reason will be found, in their relative privileges, to prefer the claims of that which now seeks the aid of Congress.

The Congress of the United States having already authorized an investiture of one million of dollars in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, it is an act of duty on the part of your memorialists to the United States, as well as to the other stockholders of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, however reluctantly performed, in consequence of the desire of the memorialists to preserve that harmony which they have hitherto maintained between all the legitimate objects of internal improvement and that confided to their care, to ask of the Congress of the United States not to express in any mode an opinion upon the relative legal pretensions of the two companies.

By order, and in behalf of the Board.

C. F. MERCER, President.