

that even that ratification is limited; that the act of Virginia is only ratified and confirmed so far as may be necessary to enable the Company to carry into effect the provisions thereof in the district of Columbia; and that "the provisions thereof," are not applicable to the state of things in that District, where there is no sheriff, no county clerk, and no prothonotary.

This is understood to be the substance of the objection.

For the purpose of considering this objection, I shall take it for granted, that, by the charter, it is contemplated that some part, at least, of the canal, or its works, will be in the District of Columbia.

It is evident, from a perusal of the charter granted by Virginia, that the Legislature intended that it should be co-extensive with the whole object in view, and should confer all the powers necessary to accomplish it. It professes to legislate as well over the District of Columbia and the State of Maryland, as over Virginia; but it restrains itself until the consent of Congress and Maryland should be obtained: that consent only was wanting to give validity to its legislation; and it has expressly provided that the charter shall be so construed as to fit it for use in Maryland and the District of Columbia. This charter, therefore, having been ratified and confirmed by Maryland and by Congress in the manner required by the Legislature of Virginia, has become as much an act of Congress, so far as respects this District, as if it had been expressly re-enacted with such modifications as might be necessary to fit it for use in the District.

In order to show that it was the intention of the Legislature of Virginia to legislate in regard to such part of the Canal as should be in the District of Columbia, it is only necessary to read the provisions of the Charter.

In the first section they expressly require the assent of the Legislature of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the U. States, before any of its provisions should take effect.

By the fourteenth section they require the assent of the same States, and of the United States, to any alteration of the tolls for the use of the said Canal—i. e. (according to the proposition before assumed, a canal extending into the District.

In the fifteenth section it is said to be necessary 'for making the said canal,' that provision should be made for condemning a quantity of land for that purpose, and it provides for the condemnation of any land 'through which