

such duties for him, in the location of the rail road, as he might designate. To this, Mr. Knight could not consent.

The difficulty of constructing the two works, jointly, around this pass is not very formidable, were the rail road company to confine themselves to the dimensions, which they have adopted at similar places on the Patapsco, through the deep cuts, and over the heavy embankments near Baltimore. A width of 18 or at most 20 feet, would be sufficient for their road, and 20 feet was width contemplated by Mr. Knight, in his conversations on the subject; when he was first upon the ground, but on his return, after his first absence, he mentioned that a width of less than 40 feet would be objectionable, as it would tend to defeat the ultimate designs of the rail road company, in having a quadruple set of tracks; two for low, and two for high velocities. If this great width should be insisted upon, it (from the peculiar formation of the pass) would augment the cost of construction, and increase the difficulty of the accommodation of the two works, beyond any reasonable limits."

(No. 28.)

Office of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Co. }
9th April, 1830. }

To the President and Directors
of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Co.

GENTLEMEN,—Your communication of this date, addressed to P. E. Thomas, President, owing to his absence, has been placed in my hands.—A few days ago, Mr. Thomas visited New York, and it is probable will not return before the last of next week;—I have thought that it might prevent misapprehension to communicate this fact, so that you may satisfactorily account for Mr. Thomas not having promptly responded to your inquiry. With respect to the subjects, which form the ground of the communication from your board, it may, for the present, be sufficient to observe, that circumstances of an urgent character, recalled Mr. Knight to Baltimore; and on the 4th inst. he again repaired to the Potomac, to resume the duties that had been delegated to him, in conjunction with Judge Roberts. May I be permitted to express the hope, that when the whole subject has been examined, by those who have been