

that may be proposed for setting on foot an ulterior compromise on just and liberal principles. But it cannot dispense with some immediate arrangement for a speedy adjudication, so as to meet the contingency of a failure of any ulterior compromise; the practicability of which may certainly be determined in a few months.

Upon the whole, we deem it essential to insist, as a preliminary to any treaty for a compromise, that a positive stipulation be inserted, allowing the parties, till a certain day to be named, (say not exceeding from 60 to 90 days from this date) to prepare themselves for a final hearing of the suit before the chancellor of Maryland, or of the cross suits in both courts; to have the suit or suits positively set for a final hearing on the day named, and, in the meantime, the parties to be respectively prepared with their proofs at their peril.

We have formerly and repeatedly proposed, and again propose to abridge the time and labour of preparation on each side, by mutual concessions of such facts and documents, as the parties know to be not susceptible of any real and *bona fide* controversy. The counsel of the two parties may settle this matter as far as they mutually think it proper and expedient to agree, and leave the remaining matters of fact open to proof and counterproof in the ordinary course; or the whole matter may be referred to the ordinary course of proof and counterproof, if the rail road company so insist.

The President and Directors of the canal company, have thought it expedient and conducive to an ultimate good understanding between the companies, on the matters involved in the proposed compromise, that they should fully and candidly explain their views by disclosing their reasons, somewhat in detail, for their principal modifications of the arrangement proposed, on the part of the rail road company. And with the same view, they would, in concluding, further remark, that if there still be any difference of opinion between the boards, on any matters of detail, which it may be thought further discussion and explanation might elucidate and adjust, it would be advisable for a committee from each board properly authorized, to meet and discuss those points amicably, in conference. There are a variety of minute questions, that an interchange of ideas in an oral discussion, may dispose of, far more satisfactorily and speedily than in the formal intercourse of written propositions. When the basis and general terms of the compromise are settled between the two boards, to their satisfaction, the respective counsel of