

1st. *The General Route of the Rail Road.*

While it would be entirely practicable to pursue a different route from Baltimore to the Patapsco River than that which, originally presenting such formidable obstacles as have successfully yielded to the perseverance of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, was nevertheless adopted by that company; it will be assumed that an independent Rail Road to Washington will not commence until it become necessary to diverge from that already constructed, in order to prolong the Washington Rail Road beyond the Patapsco River. This necessity will at any rate not present itself until we shall have passed the broad and deep ravine of Gadsby's Run.

The point at which the Washington Rail Road would cross the Patapsco, as well as the subsequent direction of the Road, would, as we have remarked, be mainly controlled by the character of the country between it and the waters of the Potomac.

Three ridges are necessarily to be passed: viz. 1. the ridge dividing the waters of the Patapsco from those of the Patuxent; 2. the ridge separating the two branches of the Patuxent; 3. the ridge dividing the waters of the Patuxent from those falling into the Potomac.

The ridge between the Patapsco and the North Branch of the Patuxent, which is crossed by the Washington Turnpike at Waterloo, 12 miles from Baltimore, attains in its greatest depression an elevation of 200 feet above mid-tide. This depression is found on the Annapolis road, 14 miles South East of Waterloo, from which there is a favourable valley to the Patapsco, on the one side, and another towards the North Branch of the Patuxent on the other. To the North West of this point, actual surveys have determined the greatly increased elevation of the Ridge; and to the South East, without any diminution in its height, we soon find, on the left hand, the waters of the Severn instead of those of the Patapsco river.

The dividing ridge between the waters of the Patuxent and those of the Potomac, it has with equal certainty been ascertained, presents its greatest depressions South East of the Turnpike road; which runs nearly parallel to, and in general within a short distance of the base of the Granite ridge, which traversing the Middle States upholds the country west of it. Its least elevation, under consideration, is at the head waters of a