

will, at all times, be ready to listen, in a friendly spirit, to any reasonable proposition which may be made on your part, and will be glad to put a speedy end to this unprofitable contention, by any settlement that would be just to both parties; and which would terminate the whole dispute between the two companies.

The directors of the rail-road company have read with much surprise those passages in your letter, which accuse them of a change in their course of policy, and of departing from a position heretofore taken and made known to your board; and they regret to find, that a sentence in their communication of January 19, 1829, has been so much misunderstood by you, as to be deemed and brought forward to support the charge you have made.

The entire paragraph, from which you have quoted only an extract, is in the following words:

"Whilst, however, the directors of this company are prompted by an earnest desire to avoid any interference with the progress of the works contemplated by the canal company, they cannot permit the present occasion to pass, without again calling your attention to a proposition made by the president of this company to the president of the canal company, in the presence of the counsel of both parties, at the time of their first meeting to confer on the subject of the dispute which had arisen in relation to the right of way, referred to in the proposition now received from you. That proposition, as reported to us by our president, has received our unqualified approbation, and was to this effect, to wit: 'That the two companies should each prosecute its respective work to the point of junction, and thus far put them both into actual operation; by this means, an opportunity would be afforded of practically testing the relative advantages of the two systems, and the one which the country should decide upon to be the best, could, and ought, then to be exclusively prosecuted.' This suggestion was originally offered, and is now renewed, under the persuasion that it can hardly be for the public interest, that two works of such magnitude, intended for the same precise object, and involving so large an expenditure, should be constructed for so great a distance immediately alongside of each other, when one would answer all the purposes, provided that were the one best calculated to secure the objects desired."

Thus it appears, as this board conceive, and you will be satisfied on a re-consideration of the whole paragraph, that