

They are still ready to act on the same principles, and to enter into any agreement that shall secure to the public the best mode of communication to the Western Waters, either from the Point of Rocks or Harper's Ferry, as the canal company may prefer, and which shall at the same time free the preference and adopted scheme from the entanglements of the present litigation, and enable it to press forward without injurious or unnecessary expenses or delays. It is true that the board confide in the superiority of the rail road, and have not doubted but that it would become the preferred and adopted scheme, and be so pronounced by the public, when both the works shall be submitted to the test of experience.

But your board, in reply to the proposition of the board of this company, appear to have determined to go on with the canal at all events, even should it not be the preferred work, should it be in their power to do so. And this board have no apprehensions from the rivalship of the canal, and have therefore, no desire to stop its progress, if the stockholders continue wedded to the scheme, it was proposed, for the sake of peace in that both works should go on amicably together, and with each other; and, in its last letter this board presented to you distinctly, this mode of accommodating the whole controversy, in order to meet the views, it was then supposed, your board entertained, in relation to the continuance of the canal.

But it was never supposed, by this company, that a compromise for so small a portion of the route, coupled with an agreement to continue the law suit for the residue, until the courts should decide it, would answer any useful purpose, and it is believed that nothing has ever been said in any communication to your board, which can fairly be so interpreted.— On the contrary, all the propositions of this company have looked to a *friendly and entire compromise of the controversy*, upon such terms as would secure to the public, the best and most useful communication between the Atlantic and the Western Waters. And this board again repeat, that they are now willing to ensure this desirable object, either by an agreement that shall open the way for both works to be carried on harmoniously throughout the line, or by entering into an agreement which shall secure that one only, which, upon experiment, may be ascertained to be the best. But they see no reason why this company should enter into an agree-