

REPORTS.

*Engineer's Office, Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road }
Company, January 25, 1831.*

Philip E. Thomas, President, &c.

In compliance with thy request, I now submit a statement exhibiting the location, progress, and future prospects of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road.

The location of this road has been completed along the entire line between Pratt street, in the city of Baltimore, and the Point of Rocks on the Potomac River, with the exception of the part across Parr Spring Ridge, including so much both on the Eastern and Western sides of that summit as might possibly be affected by any graduation, which the system of inclined planes, which will be adopted at that place, may require—the location has also been made on various parts above the Point of Rocks.

Experimental lines have been extended across this ridge, and progress has been made in the more minute examinations of the localities, in order to procure data, whereby it may be determined which of two or three feasible and practicable modes already in successful operation on other rail roads may be best suited to this ridge, and to the trade and intercourse which may be expected to pass it; or whether possibly a system, preferable to any of these, cannot be formed.

The completion of the examinations, and of the necessary plans, were prevented in the fall, on account of the time which it was found necessary to bestow on other parts of the line, so that they should be prepared for contract within the limited period, by the unusual unfavourable state of the weather, which greatly retards all the field operations.

It is intended, however, to extend the earliest attention and the necessary consideration to this part of the route, so that the graduation upon it may be commenced early in the coming season.