

hitherto prescribed for it, by a due regard to the facility of its navigation.

An error has pervaded the public mind, which has its origin in the mere denomination of the controversy between the two companies. Its commencement, at the "Point of Rocks," has given rise to the common impression that the difficulties attendant on a joint construction of the two works exist, at that place alone. But, in truth, the Point of Rocks, or the eastern base of the Catoctin mountain, where the two works first came in collision, is very far from presenting the most formidable of those numerous obstructions, which the shores of the Potomac, oppose to the joint construction of a canal and rail way, along either bank of that river. These difficulties are so multiplied, and are so greatly augmented, by the shape and structure of the Maryland shore, above Harper's Ferry, as to cover a space of forty five miles, and, in some cases, to become almost insuperable. So, they were represented to be, by the very able engineers, who twice surveyed and concurrently reported, a route, along the northern shore of the river, for the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, before the incorporation of the rail road company; or the remotest thought of constructing a rail way, and a canal, in juxta position, along that shore, had been even dreamt of.

The appeals which have been made to the undersigned, with seeming sincerity, to regard the work in which they are engaged, and on which they did not enter upon, without due deliberation, as a mere experiment, till time shall have tested the relative utility of rail roads and canals, they have been compelled to resist, for reasons which have been recently conveyed by them, to another Legislature, in the form of a memorial, to a copy of which they beg leave here to invite the earnest attention of the committee of the House of Delegates of Maryland. It will be found in one of the printed pamphlets, herewith transmitted, and for the expected publications of which, among other causes of delay, this report has been kept back.

The compromise, by which it has been proposed to accommodate the subsisting controversy between the two companies, has failed, as has been intimated; and the accompanying correspondence will shew. But, as its failure has been imputed to an unreasonable jealousy of a rival enterprise, on the part of the undersigned, they beg leave to give, some-