

has invested immense sums of money in these enterprises, and a just estimate of its present fiscal situation demands that these works should be judiciously administered, and vigorously prosecuted to their completion.—How far these demands have been gratified by the agents to whom the responsible trust was delegated, is an enquiry which does not appropriately belong to the committee of Ways and Means. They propose to enquire into the administration of these several companies, only so far as the *revenue* of the State shall be implicated.

Assuming the present means of this company to be rendered available, they will be insufficient to keep the work in progress, at their ordinary rate of expenditure, for more than six months—To complete the work it will require by the recently *corrected* estimate, the obtainment of more than two millions and a half of dollars—this is the *highest* estimated cost.

The committee being impressed with becoming sensibility, with the foregoing statement of facts, respectfully recommend them to the dispassionate consideration of the Legislature. A total abandonment of the work, is a proposition which cannot be entertained for a moment. A decent regard for the State's *interest* forbids it, even if all other considerations were disregarded. The committee now present two propositions, for the consideration of the General Assembly.

1st. Either to suspend all further appropriation of money on the part of the State, until the General Government & the three cities in the District of Columbia, will have surrendered their entire interest in this work, to the State of Maryland; *on condition*, that the work shall be completed to Cumberland, by this State; and that the great purpose of making this exclusively a State work, may be gratified and its administration regulated by a just and comprehensive estimate of the State's prosperity, without any possibility of impairing the interest of others, the committee would recommend, that the State should purchase the entire interest of the private stockholders at some ascertained price. This surrender on the part of the General Government and of the cities above named, would give to the State, two millions and a half of dollars; which sum with judicious management, in addition to the sum which the municipal authorities of Balt. city would subscribe if necessary, will be sufficient to complete the canal designed to connect the Chesapeake and Ohio canal with the city of Baltimore, and thereby make our city, by a properly regulated tariff of tolls (which would