

then be within the control of the State) the great mart for the reception and transportation of the mineral wealth of the far west. In New York and Pennsylvania, like works are conducted by the several States with advantage. The importance of the crosscut canal, to the city of Baltimore, must be obvious to the most careless observer. The attainment of this cross-cut canal, with most of its advantages, is dependent on the acceptance of the immediately preceding proposition. Should the second proposition however be accepted by the General Assembly, and the Baltimore and Ohio canal be finished to Cumberland, the interest of the people of Maryland will soon demand the execution of this cross-cut canal, although it will in that event, be accompanied with fewer advantages.

2d. The second proposition is to provide during the present session of the Legislature, such addition pecuniary aid, as will secure the most vigorous prosecution of this work to its accomplishment.

This proposition, addresses itself with great force, to the intelligence and wisdom of the Legislature, and bespeaks its sober and dispassionate consideration. The question is not, has this great work been prosecuted by the gentlemen to which it has been confided, with the sagacity, skill and energy, the Legislature contemplated. The decision of this question, is interesting in many points, but it does not affect the main proposition. If the people's agents have been unfaithful to their trust, *remove them and substitute others*. The committee mean not to impute, in the slightest degree, any breach of trust by those agents, and they refer to the *argument*, if such it may be called, only to say, that it is alien to the main proposition. The State is implicated as subscriber and lender to this company to the amount of nearly *six millions* of dollars, and it cannot certainly receive any return, if the work be now arrested in its progress. The interest on the two million loan, amounts to \$120,000 per annum, and for this the State is responsible; and to discharge this sum, taxation will be inevitable, unless this work shall be completed to those immense coal regions near to Cumberland. In addition to this, the existing contracts of the company on the line, amount to nearly \$3,000,000, of which nearly one third of the work has been done. The forfeiture of the contracts on the part of the company, would necessarily involve them in litigation with the several contractors; and other necessary losses growing out of the suspension of this work would stand in formidable array