

and Ohio Canal company, entreating me to take up that case as counsel, as well as the other, assuring me of very liberal fees on the part of the latter company; but in general terms, I wrote in reply, assigning as a reason for declining any offer which could be made, the delicate state of my family.

A short time afterward Mr. McCulloh having learned from my brother that the crisis in my family had passed over, and happily both with my wife and infant, he again wrote in terms more pressing than before, in relation to those two important propositions, then in jeopardy, and besides appealing to my dormant public spirit, invoked me in behalf of that infant to come down and aid in doing the State some service and achieve at the same time for that child, what, by good husbandry, might be a handsome provision for it. After some deliberation I found myself unable longer to resist, but under the solemnities of an oath declare that had I not been convinced that from the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, a compensation would have been given without difficulty, bearing a fair proportion to that tendered by the other company, I should by no means have been inclined or induced to leave home. After I reached Annapolis and some days had passed, I felt some doubt from the demeanour of Col. Washington, whether he understood my position, and in consequence thought proper to have a more distinct understanding with Mr. McCulloh. I accordingly enquired of him, whether he was acting in those matters as counsel and for pecuniary considerations, and whether he had authority from the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal company to contract with me, and was informed by him that he desired to maintain unimpaired his full power to aid those works, whether derived from his position as a representative of the State in her public works, as a citizen of Baltimore, or as the delegate of the convention, and deemed it necessary to that end that he should be disinterested, and that he should be known to be so. That I was differently circumstanced, and that he did consider himself clothed with authority to take the necessary means, make the requisite engagements and in short bring up the efficient instrumentalities to ensure success. I then stated that to avoid future misunderstandings, I conceived it safest to be definite before hand, and finally I proposed that I should have from the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal company nothing in case of failure, but three thousand dollars in the event of success, which he admitted to be just and reasonable, and that the company ought to pay it, and that he would advise that it should be paid.

I then requested him to let Col. Washington know how I stood, in order that he might not suppose my movements hostile or prejudicial to his company, because they embraced the interests of the other; the compensation for my services agreed upon, being greater from the canal, than from the other company. I shall not go into any detail of the various measures or of the intense anxiety and arduous labour which followed. Of course I wished both works to succeed for very obvious reasons;—for the same