

works and resources, and earnestly advised the stockholders to agree to its provisions. The wisdom of his counsel was not only doubted, but his advice was rejected by several very able debaters, who apprehended great mischief from its influence, should it lead to the approval of the compromise: these too doubted whether the Baltimore and Ohio rail road company would agree to the same; or if it did agree, whether the arrangement would not prove to be, but the beginning of new difficulties. Mr. Mercer defended his course, as usual, with great ability and zeal. Mr. Forrest supported him with equal power, and what aid I could render was freely given. In the course of the discussion, the request was made by Mr. Mercer, and concurred in by the stockholders generally, that I would proceed to Baltimore, and attend on the next day, the 8th of May, the general meeting of the Baltimore and Ohio rail road company, and procure its assent to the terms of said act. I consented, procured a coach, passed in it that night to Baltimore, appeared the next day in general meeting of the Baltimore and Ohio rail road company, participated in its proceedings, advocated its acceptance of that act; which being given, I received an authenticated copy of these proceedings, returned that night to Washington, and appeared the next day, the 9th of May, in the adjourned meeting of the canal company; made known that act of the rail road company, participated further in the discussion of the subject, and after the assent of this meeting was also given to said act, I received an authenticated copy its proceedings, and started that night to Annapolis; where, on the 10th of May, the day limited by the 4th section of the aforesaid act, for the assent of said companies to the same, being communicated to the Governor, to entitle either of them to any benefit under said act, I prepared the following letter to the Governor, and lodged it in the council chamber, with the aforesaid copies of the proceedings of said companies, and thus witnessed and contributed to the happy termination of an unnecessary and most unprofitable contest.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, ANNAPOLIS, 10th May, 1833.

To his Excellency JAMES THOMAS, Governor of Maryland:

Sir,—I have now the pleasure to deliver herewith duly authenticated copies of the proceedings of the Baltimore and Ohio rail road company, and of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal company, signifying the assent of each of said corporations to the provisions of an act passed by the General Assembly of Maryland, at December session, 1832, entitled 'an act to provide for the construction of the Baltimore and Ohio rail road to Harper's Ferry, and for other purposes; and I most sincerely congratulate you upon this happy removal of many obstacles, which have retarded the progress of those companies, in the execution of the important works of internal improvement, which have been confided to them respectively.

I have also the pleasure to state to you, that the stockholders