

from others who knew the fact, that the President of the United States felt so much interest in this matter, that he had given to a citizen of Georgetown, the assurance that the vote on the stock owned by the United States should be cast in his favor, if he would consent to act as President of the company; and had expressed his belief that the vote of the district cities would in that event be cast for him too; which, with other votes, that this course would influence, would assure his election: and that he then likewise expressed a wish to see the work completed by national aid.

That overture, its purposes and failure, became soon generally understood within the District of Columbia. The attention of that community once turned to the subject, its members inquired of each other, who should be designated as the competitor of Mr. Mercer? and most of them soon fixed upon John H. Eaton; in whom, they knew the President of the United States reposed the highest confidence.

The pretensions of this individual were presented for my consideration and support, under these circumstances; by many citizens of the District of Columbia, and especially of Washington city, these entreating me to gratify their appeals, as a last and frail hope of escaping from an oppressive burthen—the annual interest on one million of dollars, which they had borrowed and subscribed to the work, when the national government was regarded as the chief patron of the enterprise: and if, added they, this patronage could be regained, the entire section might soon be finished to Cumberland, and the District Cities be relieved from taxes to pay interest, as this would be defrayed by the dividends receivable from that finished work—besides, they could not hope that Maryland, a small State, would agree, single-handed, to finish so great an undertaking, notwithstanding the unmeasurable benefits which her inhabitants would derive, from the development of the superior coal and mineral deposits, that rest within her territory, in quantities inexhaustible, and to which this work leads.

The last proposition I regarded as the major consideration presented in the whole case—the development of these mineral resources was the grand point to be accomplished for Maryland, then, and through all time, by the construction of the eastern section of the work,

I had been, against my wishes, appointed one of three persons to vote on the stock owned by this State, in the general meetings of that company, by the Governor and Council: thus chosen by and from a political party, with whose opinions mine generally harmonized, but from whom, in this case, I had not received any advice, it not having been anticipated at least by me, and by neither of us referred to, in our intercourse with each other; I was called to act on the occasion, under and with reference to all its circumstances, which would be followed with consequences not merely for a day or year, but for ages; and I determined, as one of the representatives of the State, that the vote on its stock, be-