

The conflict of opinions and feelings shown in the meetings, by the personal and party friends of Messrs. Mercer and Eaton, respectively; growing out of the proposed election of Mr. Eaton as the successor of Mr. Mercer, was very ardent and reciprocally uncharitable. Great abuses were discoursed of, as if such had happened; whilst the parties charging them were willing, and about to re-elect all the directors, through whose connivance or gross neglect, abuses could only have happened, with impunity!!

To allay these angry feelings, which could not be indulged without great injury to the affairs of the company—with the full approbation of Elias Kane, the worthy proxy of the United States, I submitted the following resolution, as a testimonial of the respect and good feeling entertained by the company for Mr. Mercer, in the adjourned meeting of stockholders, held on Saturday, the 8th day of June, 1833, at which were represented, the United States, the State of Maryland, the State of Virginia, the Corporations of Washington, Alexandria and Georgetown, and a majority of the individual stockholders.

*Resolution offered by Mr. McCulloh.*

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the stockholders of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal company are, in the opinion of this meeting, due to Charles Fenton Mercer, for the zeal, ability, care and fidelity, which he has displayed in discharging the duties of the office of president of this company; and that in consideration of the attention bestowed, and expense incurred by him, whilst rendering many services to this corporation, that did not pertain to that office, the president and directors be, and they are hereby authorised and directed to pay to him the sum of five thousand dollars, in addition to his pay as President: which resolution was adopted.

The change made in the administration of the canal company, called forth many censorious and illiberal animadversions. Of those made through public vehicles, I took no heed; but in my intercourse with individuals, I frankly stated my entire responsibility for the change, and the reasons which had governed my course. Originally, this was censured by the members of the party *generally*, with whom I acted; including my personal friends, so far as I know, without an exception. I had foreseen this early result, but looking rather to what should and would finally be considered right, I pursued the course that I deemed the path of duty, without any apprehensions about original, or ultimate personal consequences.

The opportunities to vindicate my conduct, which personal intercourse presented, were too limited to overcome the general prejudices, to which that charge gave rise. I, therefore deemed it proper at the winter session of 1833-4 to appear before the Governor and Council, after due notice, in full meeting, to explain my official conduct.

The appointment of representatives was made soon afterwards,