

approve appropriations being made by Congress to the Chesapeake and Ohio canal company, if he could feel satisfied, as he would be if a president were chosen by the company, in whose judgment he had confidence—that such appropriations would be certainly, exclusively and wisely applied, towards the construction of its work, westwardly; for, if through the vast influence of his official advice and personal wishes, such appropriations could be obtained from Congress, to construct even the eastern section of that Canal—the State of Maryland would be spared the arduous task of finishing, single-handed, the most magnificent work of our age—a work, in all respects worthy of the patronage of our nation; under whose flattering favor it was planned, and had been commenced: and that such appropriations would be made, if at all, mainly through the influence of his advice and wishes—I thought most probable, from the best information that I could obtain.

Still my hopes were beset with apprehensions; I feared that the jealousies of some of the States might prompt their Senators and many of their representatives in Congress, and their favorite sons in the cabinet of the President, to discountenance the making of such appropriations. I well recollected that De Witt Clinton and Gouverneur Morris, repaired in the month of December, in the year 1811, to Washington, as commissioners, from the State of New York, to petition the President and Congress of the United States for aid, from the national treasury, to construct the Erie and Hudson canal: and that, when their mission had proved unsuccessful, although they complained in mild terms, but great bitterness of heart at that result—still I remembered, the wonderful contrast that existed between their complainings, and the most decided opinion that was expressed by Governor De Witt Clinton, to the legislature of New York, in his annual message, presented in the winter of 1826-'27, in which he denied, in the broadest terms, the constitutionality of such grants, as that which he, as commissioner from New York, had sought to obtain from Congress, in pursuance and by command of an act passed by its Legislature on the 8th of April, 1811. And I remembered too, that on the passage of the bill by Congress to grant aid to the Dismal Swamp canal, *twenty-four* of the representatives of New York voted against, and but *three* in favor of that appropriation. I also knew that the ruling policy of Virginia looked, principally to the construction of a central line of improvement, in the direction of James and Kanawha rivers, and with great indifference towards the canal along its northern or Potomac border. I had likewise noted the change of opinion that had come over the good people of the 'Key-stone State,' after its government had made large appropriations of money for the construction of their rail roads and canals; and I saw that on this trial, firm and true to the constitutional obligations as those should ever be who boast that their State occupies so proud a place in the arch of our Union—that it