

which is now just finished, we descend to the 71st level the length of which is 6 miles and 4867 feet; it extends from the narrows to Oldtown, and upon it all the heaviest earth works, including the deep rock cutting at Cresap's Mill, are finished or nearly so: The earth works not yet begun of which there is a considerable length, are all bottom land sections presenting no unusual difficulties; no masonry of any kind has yet been done on this level.

By lock No 71 of 8 feet lift located opposite to Oldtown in the vale back of Alum Hill, which is attained by the canal through the deep cut at Cresap's, and of which lock the masonry is not yet begun, we drop down to the 70th level, which is a short one, 1708 feet in length, and upon it nothing has yet been done.

By lock No. 70 of 8 feet lift, of which no masonry is commenced, we descend to the 69th level, which is 1405 feet long, and upon which nothing has been done: over the tail of lock No. 70. a bridge will be required to pass the Oldtown and Springfield road which here crosses the canal.

By lock No. 69 of 8 feet lift, and of which no masonry is laid, we descend to the 68th level.

These three locks No. 69, 70, and 71, overcoming together 24 feet of lockage, are in a very backward state, the pit of one only being partially excavated and a very few stone prepared; at the usual rate of working upon this canal, it will require near 30 months to prepare these works for the admission of navigable water,

The 68th level is 1 mile and 3052 feet in length, and extends from Oldtown—passing the bluff above the forks of Potomac, called Rock Difficult—terminating in the Ferry road opposite to the mouth of the South Branch, neither earthwork nor masonry has been done upon this level, except at the bluff, the canal around which is nearly formed.

A reconnoissance of the ground, induces me to regard the location of the canal upon the 68th level as defective; between Oldtown and the Bluff it pursues a circuitous course, and for part of the distance lays along the brink of the river on insecure ground. No work having been done upon this part of the level, it is happily yet in our power to alter the line if an instrumental examination should prove it to be advisable. This alteration would consist in moving lock No. 69 down from Oldtown to the upstream end of Rock Difficult, pursuing with the canal, between these points a safer and more direct route, sev-