

rights of the contractors, and of the very heavy losses such a proceeding would have necessarily brought upon the State, as a stockholder. Such was not the conclusion of the undersigned, nor of his associates, he believes, in the board of directors. A majority of the House of Delegates, at the last session, passed a bill making an appropriation to the canal company. A large portion of the minority in the House on the passage of that bill, declared themselves in favour of a vigorous uninterrupted prosecution of the work. The bill from the House was rejected in the Senate by a vote of 8 to 8, five senators being absent. Of the five absentees, three of them (making, with the 8 present and voting, a majority of the whole body) were favourable to an appropriation to the canal. These facts were known to the stockholders and to the board of directors, when they determined to proceed. Instead therefore of concluding that they were going counter to the wishes of the Legislature, those who recommended and those who undertook the continuance of the construction of the canal, had good reason to suppose that they were acting in consonance with the desire of the largest stockholder, the State of Maryland, and of all the other stockholders of the company.

Supposing that the committee, in proposing the 5th interrogatory, may have had a wish to know whether political considerations had any influence whatever, on the stockholders, or Directors, or on the President of the canal company, when deciding upon the propriety of continuing or abandoning the canal in June last, the undersigned will say for himself—for others he is not authorised to speak—that, his party predilections are so decided, that he will not claim to be altogether free from political considerations, in the management of a large public corporation, by the good or bad management of which the interests of all Maryland are to be materially affected. He has persuaded himself that his party preferences are founded in patriotism. And that, when by any good conduct, he has promoted his party, he has served well his country. Admitting without reserve, the existence of these feelings,—feelings he believes common to every honest man on the committee, and in the House of Delegates,—he avers **MOST SOLEMNLY**, that he has never paid out to, nor withheld from a contractor, or labourer, one dollar of the money of the canal company because they coincided with, or differed from him in political opinion. He avers **WITH EQUAL SOLEMNITY**, that he has never abandoned