

of the 21st, 22nd and 28th ultimo, now in possession of the committee as an answer in part to this interrogatory; and will add the following: an Engineer voluntarily leaving a work that he has had in charge, ought to give a reasonable notice to those in whose employ he has been, to allow of their making the necessary arrangements for a successor, and he should, also, endeavor, so to arrange the papers that may pass from his hands that injustice should not be done to any one in consequence of his resignation, and that there may be no unnecessary embarrassment in the way of his successor. So on the other hand, an engineer when dismissed from service, to say nothing of other considerations, should be allowed a sufficient time to enable him to complete and arrange all unfinished and imperfect papers. These, it will be admitted, are correct positions in reference to other professions when closing their connection with business that has been entrusted to their management, and are not less so when applied to the Chief Engineer of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, whose duties have, of late years, required his presence at various points along a distance of 180 miles for nearly three fourths of his time, and consequently an absence of equal length from the papers of his office.

Having only two days notice of my dismissal, a time wholly insufficient for me to do what was requisite in justice to others as well as myself, and as the circumstances preceding and attending my dismissal, precluded all intercourse on my part with the President and my successor, I thought it proper to take with me to Washington, *where the Canal Office then was*, such papers as required explanation and were imperfect; there to do by them, preparatory to their being placed in the canal office, the same as though I had voluntarily quitted the service of the company, and to this labor I had determined to give my attention whenever my private business should permit. There was in this course no *immediate* difficulty or embarrassment that could ensue to the company or its officers, more than would have been unavoidably attendant upon the death had it then occurred, instead of the dismissal of the Chief Engineer. (I here kept out of view, and shall continue to do so, the general estimate of December 1839, which I found in my possession after the receipt of the first letter from the clerk of the company, which I did not know until then, was in my possession; and that was immediately sent to the clerk as requested by him; which I considered important to be in possession of the company, in