

CUMBERLAND, January 31st, 1845.

To the Hon. W. B. CLARKE, chairman of the select committee of enquiry.

DEAR SIR,—I have before me your interrogatories dated yesterday, and which you have desired me to answer. I have heard the answers of Nathaniel P. Barnes read over, and I can truly say I concur in every statement he has made, and in every opinion he has given, and I am satisfied there is not a coal dealer in our county who would not concur also with Mr. Barnes, for there can be no question of the truth of all his statement. I did make a contract to deliver a quantity of coal in Georgetown, but I found the difficulties so great that I abandoned the contract after sending two car loads of coal to Dam No. 6. The coal sent down by me to Dam No. 6 in the two cars remained unloaded at Dam No. 6 for about three weeks, for the want of an agent at that point, and the Rail Road company refused to let me have any more cars until the two sent were unloaded. If I had sent down an agent, it would have cost me as much as the profits on the two car loads. I therefore abandoned the contract, and my coal sent down in the two cars, is now at Dam No. 6, if some one without my consent has not appropriated it to his own use. My object was to send coal down to Georgetown and get plaster of paris back. I had however to order plaster of paris from Baltimore, for if it had been sent to me from Georgetown to Dam No. 6, I would have been compelled to send down an agent to unload from the boats, and to unload in the cars if I could have obtained a car at that point. The uncertainty of all these things and the trouble and expense attending transshipment at Dam No. 6, renders it out of the question for us to take advantage of the canal at that point for coal or any other article of merchandize. It ought to be mentioned that the height of the car on the road above the level of the water or boat is at least twenty feet, and cost of transporting plaster from the boats to cars is about $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents per ton, a cost which plaster will not bear.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. W. BEALL.