

CUMBERLAND, January 31st, 1845.

To the Hon. W. B. CLARKE,

Chairman of Select Committee of Enquiry :

DEAR SIR,—Your esteemed note of the 30th instant, in behalf of the committee, is at hand, and forthwith proceed to answer your proposed interrogatories.

To your 1st interrogatory, asking me if I am a dealer in coal, and how long, I would say, twenty-five years and upwards.

To your 2nd, asking me if I have transported any coal to market by the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, and to what extent, and how I am pleased with it as a carrier of my coal to market, I would say : I *have* transported coal on the Rail Road, but to no considerable amount, owing to inconveniences and difficulties attendant thereto. Those inconveniences are these : 1st. Very often we haul coal to the Rail Road depot for to be sent on the cars, and on application for the cars, I am told, I can get none to-day. This being the case, we have to throw our coal on the ground, and load it up again, at such times as the company can give us cars, at a considerable inconvenience and at an expense we cannot bear. 2nd. As a carrier I am not pleased with it at all—in my experience, the Canal is by far preferable.

To your 3rd, asking me if I would undertake to deliver, say, 15,000 tons of coal, at New York or any other point on the seaboard, by a certain time, the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road being my carrier, I would say : I would by no means engage to deliver any amount of coal within any specific time by the Rail Road, inasmuch as I would have no assurance whether I could rely on getting cars daily, or the number of cars it would take daily to comply with that contract.

To your 4th, asking me if I would engage to deliver the same amount, or more, to the place above mentioned, or any other point, if the Canal was completed to Cumberland, I would say : I most assuredly would, inasmuch as I could load my boats at my pleasure, start at my pleasure, and thus would be certain to fulfil my engagement.

To your 5th, asking me if the coal now transported by the Rail Road to Baltimore is injured in any manner and how, I would say : I cannot inform you whether it is injured or not.

To your 6th, asking me if the coal now sent by the Rail Road to Baltimore is carried without interruption, or is it delayed on the way, I would say : It is interrupted ; and they are considerably delayed, as I am informed by my agent. While sending coal not long since, only two cars had arrived in Baltimore, when I had been sending some coal filling two and three cars every day, for six or eight days previous to the departure of the two alluded to. He also informed me, he saw them while passing along the road on his way to Cumberland. My clerk applied for cars while sending this my last contract, and was told none had come up—that out of 200 cars, 150 stood along the road and in Baltimore unattended to or un-