

but of the people of Maryland and a large portion of the whole country.

The completion of the canal to Cumberland is justly regarded by all as the object of paramount importance, and until this shall have been effected, it may truly be said that little comparatively has been done.

The favorable action of the Congress of the United States and of the Legislatures of Virginia and Maryland, in the passage of the several acts contained in the documents before us, was calculated to excite the brightest hopes in the friends of our great enterprize, and the gratifying assurance contained in the report of the President on the 29th of April, in reference to the speedy execution of the guarantees required by the law of Maryland, especially by the mining companies, (on the transportation of whose produce must depend in a great degree the profitable use of the canal when completed,) had induced your committee to indulge the expectation that some information of a definite character would be laid before them at the present meeting on this deeply interesting subject. They cannot withhold the expression of their regret at the disappointment which they have experienced in this respect.

In the absence, however, of more definite information, they are happy to see the entire confidence which is manifested by the President and Directors of the company in the speedy accomplishment of the objects contemplated in the law above referred to.

The implicit reliance which your committee repose in the sincerity of those to whom the immediate management of the affairs of the company is intrusted, convinces them that they at least have no doubt of their own ability to carry out the provisions of the law, more especially as they have named an early day, viz: the middle of this month, as the time by which the guarantees will be executed; and as the committee are fully aware of the difficulty of imparting definite information during the progress of a negotiation, they dismiss the subject with the expression of an earnest hope, that nothing may occur to disappoint the gratifying expectations which are now so confidently entertained by those who have charge of the affairs of the company.

The most unpleasant portion of the duty, which you have imposed on your committee, yet remains to be performed, and they cannot withhold the expression of their deep regret, at what appears to be a violation of good faith on the part of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, in their recent action, in reference to the freights on coal and iron between Cumberland and Dam No. 6. They cannot, however, believe that the rail road company would have resorted to such a measure for the sole purpose of injuring the canal, and unless they had also been influenced by an actual inability to comply with the arrangements, which they had entered into without loss to themselves.

Your committee entertain the opinion that the proper business of this road is the transportation of passengers, and merchandize between the two great sections of the country and between the