

NO. 6.

OFFICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL Co.,
Frederick, December 18, 1844.

DEAR SIR: Being informed that you have recently returned from a visit to England, made with a view of examining and ascertaining the extent of trade and relative advantages of canals and railroads in regard to the cost of transportation, I have taken the liberty of addressing you this note, and of asking from you such information in regard to those subjects as it may be convenient to you to afford.

The public mind in this State is at present much directed to the question of internal improvements, in consequence of the efforts that are being made to obtain a law for the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to Cumberland; and I think that much error of opinion prevails here, in referenc to the subjects alluded to, which the result of your observations in England may probably dispel.

I will therefore esteem it a favor if you would furnish me with the information desired, which, with your permission, I purpose laying before our Legislature at its approaching session, now near at hand.

In addition to such other facts as you may see fit to communicate, I particularly desire to learn the result of the present competition between the canals and railway from Liverpool to Manchester; as also of that between the Taff Vale railway and Glamorgan-shire canal for the coal and iron trade of Wales.

An early answer will greatly oblige your obedient servant,

J. M. COALE,

President of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Co.

CHARLES ELLET, Esq., *Civil Engineer.*

PHILADELPHIA, *December 26, 1844.*

DEAR SIR: The subjects on which you have requested information are so comprehensive, and cover a field so wide, that I am unable to do justice to them in a communication of any reasonable length. I shall therefore be compelled to limit my remarks on the several points which you have suggested to the presentation of the most important facts bearing on the problem, in the form of memoranda, from which you can draw your own conclusions.

The question of the comparative cost of transportation on canals and railroads is one on which I have had frequent occasion to express my opinions; but, in the examination which I made this summer of the public improvements in England, I saw nothing to change the opinion which I had previously deduced from the data offered by the works of this country.