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MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of Virginia :

The memorial of the President and Directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company respectfully states : That under the provisions of the Act passed by the General Assembly of Maryland, at its December session, 1844, ch. 281, entitled, "An Act to provide for the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to Cumberland, and for other purposes," and with the means authorized and secured by said act, the work of completing the unfinished portion of the canal between Dam No. 6 and Cumberland, which, had been so long delayed for want of adequate resources, is now in active progress under a general contract entered into for that purpose, with every reasonable assurance that the canal will be finished to its said destination during the ensuing year. The company, therefore, and all others interested in this great enterprise, may, we hope, be relieved from further solicitude in regard to this all-important and interesting subject. And your memorialists state, that under these circumstances, and in view of the large amount of tonnage that will soon be introduced upon the canal after its completion, the attention of the board has been anxiously directed to the expediency of repairing and improving the portion of the work extending from the District of Columbia to Dam No. 6, a distance of $134\frac{1}{2}$ miles, in order that the entire line from Cumberland down, may be in a condition to sustain successfully the expected trade.

In consequence of some defects in its original construction, and injuries caused by the wear and tear of time and heavy freshets, which have in some places been but imperfectly repaired and removed by reason of an insufficiency of means, (the annual revenues having been heretofore scarcely sufficient to defray the ordinary current expenses and maintain the navigation,) the portion of the canal alluded to, in its present condition, is considered incapable of sustaining the requisite depth of water, and of accommodating boats of the full burden for which its capacity was designed, but with a comparatively small expenditure of money, timely and judiciously applied, it may be easily made adequate to the purpose.

To enable the company to accomplish this highly desirable object, your memorialists now respectfully appeal to the State of