

her borders, furnish strong and unquestionable grounds for appealing to her for assistance.

It was the apprehension, in the language of a memorial from Baltimore presented to the Maryland Legislature at December session, 1844, that upon the completion of the canal "the various branches of trade which now constitute the chief element of the commercial prosperity of the city of Baltimore, would be transferred to Alexandria," that mainly contributed to excite the opposition from that quarter against which this company had so long to struggle; and although these apprehensions, so far as respects the anticipated injury to Baltimore, may be considered as unfounded, yet, that by the *new sources* of trade to be opened by the canal, it will tend to the aggrandizement of Alexandria, and consequently to the State of Virginia, is a proposition that cannot admit of doubt. But as your memorialists have stated, to enable the canal to command and to encourage this trade, and to justify a transportation at rates that will be calculated to increase and build it up to the importance that it may speedily be made to acquire, early steps should be taken to put the present finished portion of the canal below Dam No. 6, in a condition to transport boats of as large a tonnage as will be accommodated on the newly constructed part above that point; and to this end a loan of money, to the amount hereinbefore mentioned, is necessary.

With our present inconsiderable and irregular trade, no material prejudice or inconvenience would be sustained, by drawing and keeping the water out of the canal, as long as might be required to make the requisite repairs and improvements. But far different would be the case if they should be delayed until after the canal is finished. The parties interested in the coal fields in the vicinity of Cumberland, have already made, and are making, extensive preparations for sending down large quantities of coal, immediately on the completion of the canal, and of keeping up thereafter a regular transportation of that article, and great loss and embarrassment would consequently ensue, both to them and to the company, should the navigation be then suspended for said purpose. In this view alone, it is of very great importance that immediate means be obtained to put the present finished portion of the canal in complete condition. Another highly important object would be obtained thereby, in enabling the company to grant water privileges for mills and other manufacturing establishments at Alexandria and other points where they are now much wanted, and the applications for which the company have been constrained hitherto to refuse, in consequence of the insufficiency of the supply. Your memorialists therefore indulge the hope, that in the present exigencies of the company, and the flattering prospects before it, which may be so materially prejudiced without the aid required, your honorable body will pass a law granting a loan to the company in money, or bonds or certificates of debt of the State of Virginia, which will be con-