

contend against. We would also add as a general remark in concluding this subject, that there are but few instances in the history of internal improvements in which a work of so much magnitude, and for so large an amount, has been finished by the time originally limited, even when the consideration was payable in ready money.

In our last annual Report, we explained the provisions and purposes of the act passed by the Legislature of Virginia, on the 15th of March last, entitled, "an act to aid the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company in certain repairs of their works and for other purposes," and exhibited, in the appendix of the report, a certified copy of the act. We also stated that in consequence of some of the conditions of the act, the company had not at that time succeeded in making it available, but the opinion was expressed, that all difficulties would be removed or surmounted, and that the assistance intended to be afforded by the State of Virginia, by the passage of the act, would be realized. We now have the gratification to state that these expectations have been fulfilled. One of the obstacles interposed, which, though not mentioned in the report, was fully made known to the gentlemen, who, under the appointment of the Legislature, represent and have charge of the State's interest in the company, was a letter received from the Governor of this State under date of the 25th of May last, intimating a doubt as to the authority of the company to avail of the provisions of the act, a copy of which had previously been furnished to him at his request. He however stated that "as it was a matter of very great importance both to the State and the canal company," he would submit the question to the Attorney General for his opinion and advice; and, to this end, desired information on certain points which he specified. On the same day, in the hope that a definite conclusion would be arrived at before the annual meeting of the company, which was near at hand, the president of the company replied at length to the enquiries of the Governor, and said, "that however highly important to the interests of Maryland and all concerned in the success of the company, the procurement of adequate means to put the canal in complete condition and repair may now be considered, the company would not be disposed to do any act, even to accomplish that object, which is not just, fair and within the scope of their authority." The sentiment was also expressed that as the question of authority had been raised, it was important that it should be settled before any final steps were taken in the matter, and the propriety of submitting it to the Attorney General was concurred in. So the matter stood until the 4th of July last, when a brief note was received from the Governor, accompanied by the opinion of the Attorney General on the subject. A copy of the note and opinion will be found in the appendix marked No. 1. By reference to the opinion, it will be seen, that this distinguished law officer of the State, is clear and decided on the question of authority, and he also fully sustains the company in