

the line along most of the route further from the river and nearer to the hills—commencing at the lower point of rocks, at station No. 5, of the conjoint lines; the space between the excavation for Roberts' independent location, and the first large cliff, some 200 feet eastward from the point of rocks, was about 21 feet.—Whereas, now the excavation extends quite to the base of that cliff, thus indicating a change in the line here of 21 feet horizontally towards the base of the mountain. This change is calculated to increase the difficulties of constructing the rail road, and it may also render it difficult on account of the consequent increase of curvature, to get round the point so near at hand. The grade of the rail road will likewise be here increased on account of the near approach of the lock which is just at the upper termination of the narrow pass. From thence for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles to little Cotoctin creek, the present location of the canal is very nearly throughout on the line run for the rail road, the straight lines of Roberts in places, and especially in McGill's and Hook's bottom lands being exchanged for curved lines lying up nearer to the hills, and rendering the passage of the rail road much more expensive and curved, than it would have been in either the conjoint or independent locations. Similar changes have been made above Berlin, and especially through Weaver's lands, and by Miller's Narrows, as well as at Harper's Ferry Narrows:—So that, independent of what has been styled the narrow passes, there will be about 4 miles of the distance that will be rendered, perhaps \$7,500 per mile, or in the whole, \$30,000 more costly in the graduation and masonry of the rail road than it would have been if the canal had been upon Roberts' independent line.

*Answer to query 15.* I am unacquainted with any sufficient reasons for the changes in the location just referred to.

*Answer to query 16.* The foundation of considerable portions of the protection walls of the canal at the four narrow passes enumerated, were to have been according to the independent location of Roberts, and now are, under water in ordinary stages of the stream. At the lower and upper points of rocks, and likewise at Miller's Narrows, the Potomac, from its great width of nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  a