

and economical position of the canal would dictate and no more.

*Answer to query 2.* The changes which have necessarily taken place in the line of the canal have not materially increased the difficulty of constructing a rail road on its margin. At the two points of rocks the position of the centre line remains nearly if not quite the same; certainly not differing more than 5 or 6 feet to the right or left; there are certain governing points which effectually check any important deviation from a course which must be apparent, not only to a professional man, but to a casual observer, to be the one combining the great desiderata, economy and security. At Miller's narrows and from that pass up to Harper's Ferry the position of the line of canal is outside of or further removed from the face of the rocks than either the conjoint or independent location of the canal, consequently affording greater facilities for the construction of a rail road; between the difficult passes the ground is generally bottom land or ground falling with a gentle inclination towards the Potomac, the present location is sometimes to the right or left of the independent location, but from the natural formation of the surface of the ground cannot materially affect the passage of a rail road.

*Answer to query 3.* This interrogatory will be premised in the answer by the observation, that the final adjustment of the precise position of the centre line of the canal does not always take place until the work is far advanced in its construction and that sometimes the line is changed even after the construction has been commenced upon the part altered. There has not been a month since the construction was commenced last spring, during which, some portion of the line has not been changed. During the month of May or June, the location below the bridge at Harper's Ferry was changed and thrown considerably further into the river. The answer will therefore be that changes have taken place in the location since the 14th of March 1832, but not entirely for the reasons suggested in the enquiry, that these changes were necessary to the utility of the part previously constructed, but that the particular local circumstances demanded them and they had no reference to the period mentioned in the interrogatory.