

*Answer to query 14.* The present location of the canal, compared with that of Roberts, increases the difficulty of constructing the rail road by its side in some places, and diminishes it at others. At the point of rocks the difficulties are about equal on either; at the passes above, the facilities are greater on the former. I should suppose, that, on a full consideration of the subject, no greater amount of difficulty is offered by the present location of the canal, to the passage of the rail road, than that by Mr. Roberts.

*Answer to query 15.* The plan and location of the canal from the point of rocks to Harper's ferry, upon which the present construction is progressing, was made without any distinct reference to the location of Mr. Roberts, when acting as commissioner with Mr. Knight. As I have before observed, no 2 engineers think precisely alike in collecting the data upon which they base their opinions for preferring one location of the canal, and that of the independent location of Mr. Roberts, lies in the position of the locks. In differing with Mr. Roberts, I was supported in the propriety of the step by the unanimous advice of those with whom I consulted, who with myself, thought it more economical and secure in the construction of the canal, to place the locks lower on the line of canal, in which course I was consistent with myself in the location which I had made in 1828 and '29, for I then placed the locks, nearly where they at present stand. No faults or errors are attributed to Mr. Roberts; but a difference of opinion has existed, and as an unlimited authority was vested in me to locate the canal to the best of my judgment I have exercised it; the error may lie in the present location, if there be one; though I have seen no cause to regret the alteration. The location made by Roberts, was seldom referred to; the most economical, consistent with a secure canal, was the sole and unmingled object of the labors of the engineers.

*Answer to query 16.* The base of the protection wall in both cases of the present and former location, must rest in the running water of the river, and have its foundation under water at ordinary stages of the river—neither the depth nor velocity of the current, nor a wish to avoid diminishing or narrowing the width of the river