

tion more useful, there was of course necessary, simultaneously and since, the investigation of such principles and facts as served to elucidate any of the subjects, to originate any of the estimates, or to confirm any decision which they may have made in relation to any part of them.

Under these three general heads will be included all that the Commissioners have at this time to offer, occupying in them the whole ground of any future communications, and intending, by such communications only, to fill up, by more enlarged experience and observations, more complete the details which may have been omitted here, and which they expect in every case would tend to the diminution of the items in the estimates they have now furnished.

I. The first object—that of affording by accurate means an ascertainment of various points interesting and proper to be defined along the whole route—although the first attended to, has not yet been completed. The Commissioners, in the hope and desire of fulfilling their duties in one season, although the length of the route and the necessarily precarious nature of the modes of transit along that route, afforded them ample reason for doubting the probability of their expectation, had made arrangements for carrying on simultaneously the operations of two parties of survey, when unforeseen circumstances caused the absence of one of the engineers, who had been associated with them in their charge, and as it was manifest at the period of his leaving the work that enough could be finished by the single party to enable them to estimate the cost of the work, though not enough completed to show the mode of execution, nor all the results of their labors, they preferred the least expensive plan, and at the same time the most satisfactory one, as affording the proper intervals of leisure to examine, under fitting circumstances, the various steps that had been taken. Hence they are not prepared, at this time, to exhibit an accurate map of the connection of the whole route; and they have chosen rather to defer the period of presenting such a map than to furnish disjointed portions, which might, in all likelihood, serve to confuse more than any thing else.

Of course they defer also any specification of the minute operations, until the whole, which will be prosecuted after a regular system, shall be complete. They