

would state in general, that the plan they adopted—the only one indeed applicable to the objects they had in view, was of a triangulation, dependent in the first instance upon an accurate base, (which, to a length of two miles, has been measured on Smith's Island, in the State of Virginia) and resting in all its points upon important headlands, conducted in all its parts upon a system according with that of the United States Coast Survey, for whose purposes the work will be, to a certain extent, communicable

The necessity of this mode was gratified by its being in fact the most economical one which could be resorted to; a consideration which, under the terms of their charge, the Commissioners confess was of importance. Even, however, had this not been the case, the Commissioners would have conceived themselves called on to adopt the plan, which in any event of the deliberations of your honorable bodies, could not fail to be productive of very great benefits.— Not only, as was intimated before, will the positions of important headlands and inlets, be indicated to a correctness within a large fraction of a foot in the protraction of the notes of the Survey; but a continuous channel-way, a thing of great importance to mariners, of the entire coast, will also be defined. The information, as to this important matter, is now confined, as might be supposed, to very few. The Commissioners have had occasion to perceive, in the course of their operations, how very little was known by a considerable portion even of these few, of how much advantage it will be to expose it to the public, the Commissioners are sure they they need not speak.

If, on the other side, the views which they are about to present, under the succeeding heads of this Report, should be sufficiently cogent to induce the execution of the work, it would be highly inexpedient, without such a chart, to proceed to construct the canals and passage-ways, whose use, when completed, would be by such means materially facilitated.

In conclusion of this topic then, the Commissioners beg leave to report that, in accordance with the terms of the laws calling for their appointment, they shall continue the labours of the past season, until they have filled up the plan which they adopted in the commencement of the Survey, i. e. until they are able to present