

Potomac with them. This assent to the reasonable request of so high a power as the State of Maryland, has been virtually refused; and the Canal Company, not content with this refusal, and in defiance of the known and expressed wishes of the State, has actually changed the location of the Canal, as originally laid down along the narrow passes between the Point of Rocks and Harper's Ferry, and has now occupied the ground in such a manner as to prevent the possibility of the Rail-Road being extended through that part of the valley. Whereas, had they evinced that deference to the wishes of the State, which ought to have characterized their proceedings, ample room might have been afforded for the successful prosecution of both works. The Directors of the Canal Company, it would appear, have thus thwarted the expressed wishes of the State, equally interested in both works, and for no other evident reason, than from a determined hostility to another work which they have chosen to consider in the light of a formidable rival. I have not the slightest fear that the Rail-Road will not reach its ultimate destination.—Yet, I cannot but perceive that the expense of its construction will be increased by the illiberal act of the Canal Company; and I submit to your consideration whether the dignity of the State would not be consulted by a refusal of any future favors requested by the Canal Company, until that Company shall be made to retrace her steps, and afford a passage for the Rail-Road, upon such terms as the Legislature may in its wisdom think proper. Should you concur with me in the opinion, that the dignity and interest of the State are concerned in this matter, I would strenuously urge upon you the importance of finally adjusting the subject, (should it be in your power,) in such a way as to leave no room for future injustice, but to compel the Canal Company to permit the Rail-Road to pass as far as Harper's Ferry, according to the Resolution of the Legislature, and in such manner as will enable the Company to construct the Rail-Road without any additional expense in consequence of the changes which have been made in the location of the Canal.

A copy of the last annual report of the Rail-Road Company, together with a communication from the President of that company, is herewith submitted.

I also submit a Report from the Agent of the State, who attended the meetings of the Canal Company, which were called to consider the Resolution of the State before referred to.