

PREFACE.

*To the Stockholders of the
Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company.*

The President and Directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, having, after the most earnest and unre-mitted efforts, failed in effecting an amicable adjustment of the existing legal disputes between them and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, concerning the right of way for their respective works along the valley of the Potomac, deem it proper, in order that the stockholders may become acquainted with the true causes of this failure, to lay before them the entire correspondence between the two companies, in relation to this contest.

The stockholders are already aware that this controversy originated with the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal company; they having, in the first instance, obtained a writ of injunction prohibiting the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road company from acquiring cessions of land, either by purchase or otherwise, for the accommodation of their work, along the Potomac river, from the Point of Rocks to Cumberland; whilst the canal company were left at full liberty, both to acquire such cessions, and to proceed with the actual construction of their canal, even over the very grounds which had been previously acquired, by the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road company, and for part of which this company then held, and does still hold, deeds of conveyance duly recorded.

Under these circumstances, the President and Directors of the Rail Road company had no alternative, but either at once