

The corporation of Georgetown by Clement Cox, Esq.

Also, several private stockholders.

The President of the company, the Hon. Francis Thomas, stated the causes which prevented the presentation of the annual report at this time; and laid before the meeting copies of his letters to the governor of Maryland, dated the 9th day of November, 1839, and 10th February, 1840; which were laid on the table.

Mr. Thomas Carberry presented the memorial of George G. Johnson and others, contractors on the line of the canal, praying the stockholders to use their utmost influence to obtain a call of the Legislature of Maryland.

*To the Stockholders of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, in meeting at Washington City, June 1, 1840.*

*Gentlemen:*—We, the undersigned, contractors on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, beg leave to represent, that we view with the utmost dismay the ruinous and destructive consequences that must inevitably ensue to us, if the work we have on hand should be retarded or suspended for want of funds to carry it to final completion.

We beg leave to represent to you our respective conditions.—Our jobs are very heavy and important portions of the work, some of us have been engaged on them from three to four years; we have been at great cost in making roads, building our houses, fixing our families, building our shops, store houses, stables and the machinery, &c., necessary for the convenience of the work. A great number of our hands have built their shantees, fenced in their gardens, and have been at considerable expense, and would be literally ruined if the works were to stop. We have thus far continued to prosecute our work at great cost and through great difficulties. In the first place laborers were exceedingly scarce, some of us were under the necessity of sending our agents to Europe and elsewhere, at great cost, for the purpose of obtaining them; and we have been compelled to pay extravagant wages for years past. The cost of provisions rose to nearly double what they were when we made our contracts. Under all these disadvantages we have not been able to realize the smallest reward for our labor, and the difficulties we have encountered and the investments we have made; some of us have invested our whole capital in our jobs, and should we be kept agoing as circumstances have changed, we entertain a hope that we should be able to remunerate ourselves to some degree for past toils and difficulties.

We also beg leave to represent, that the work we have in hand could be finished by us at much less cost to the canal company than it would require if they should suffer the work to stop, and the laborers to leave the line, as they could not be easily induced to return. This has been too often tried to admit of a doubt.—Add to this the great amount of damages liable to be sustained by