

and regrets that the distracted state of the country, and the uncertainty of communication, compelled him to leave Richmond on Saturday morning, in order to be present at the assembling of your Honorable Body, and before he had received a definitive reply from the Governor of Virginia. That, as soon as he receives any further communication from him, he will make a further report to your Honorable Body.

Your Commissioner may be permitted to remark, that the people of the western counties of the State, and adjacent to the Canal, are much interested in preserving from molestation the trade along its line of navigation, and he has been particularly solicitous in removing all obstacles which threatened it. While the bed of the Canal is on the soil of Maryland, the dams which furnish it with water are dependant on the protection of the Virginia authorities; and while they have, as yet, manifested no disposition to withdraw their guardianship, and leave them liable to the depredations of malignant persons, your Commissioner has deemed it his duty to guard against, as far as possible, such a contingency, and he indulges in a well founded confidence that, the material interests of this great State work will not be seriously jeopardized.

O. HORSEY.