

I estimated, before, this part of the survey at about \$10,000, and considered that by our arrangement we had made an economical disposition to at least that amount.

In consequence of this arrangement, the superintendent of the United States survey has actually entered our territories and with myself visited a good many points. It has been, I think I am warranted in saying, his earnest personal desire to commence operations in Maryland for two years past; but some difficulties in the department under whose charge the survey was placed have hitherto prevented him.

When I last saw Mr. Hassler (in November) he still entertained the hope of entering Maryland this year; whether those hopes will be verified I cannot say. In consequence of this state of the case, I have to present to your Excellency the question, whether it is proper for us to wait for the United States or no. The work, so far as I am concerned, is in that state that the observations might commence as soon as a settled state of the atmosphere will permit: while the intervening time could be spent in effecting preparations which I commenced last fall but suspended partly from want of funds and partly from the uncertainty of the case:—such as a double tent for the instrument while standing on the station, a wagon with springs for its conveyance, &c. &c.

If your Excellence asks for my own opinion about it, I would suggest a suspension of the work until it was signified to your officer that the United States were ready to commence. By this step would be saved all expense in relation to it, such as the salary of the officer and the other constant expenses accompanying the discharge of his duties; and at the same time, might possibly be accelerated the movements of the U. S. Survey. The eminent talents and advanced age of Mr. Hassler render it to me an object of the deepest anxiety that every inducement should be held out for his speedy commencement of operations in Maryland. Another consideration is, too, that for the outfit and organization of the first year will be required, as, I have said in the public report not less than \$10,000: a sum, which in the present embarrassed state of the finances, I foresee difficulty in procuring. So far our expenditures have never been the fourth part of that sum; because the Trigonometrical survey proper has been always an accessory more than the main business, and because, for the peculiar organization of that survey (with the exception of the purchase of two horses costing \$250) not an outlay has been ever made.

Should these views meet your Excellency's approbation I shall continue in constant correspondence with Mr. Hassler; and lose no opportunity of accelerating as far as possible his movements. When he enters Maryland, should it be at an interval when I cannot communicate with the Executive: I will also take care that no want of information or assistance shall delay his operations.