

His Majesty and His Imperial Parliament would concur in enacting such Laws and in giving such facilities and encouragement to this stupendous undertaking as would insure its success.

To entitle ourselves however to the active aid of the Imperial Government in this great measure, we must evince a disposition to contribute to it to the extent of our means, and even, if it were possible, to go beyond them; for we ought not to expect our Mother Country to expend her resources for our benefit, while we, who will so immediately reap the advantage, are restrained by cold narrow selfish feelings from giving our fullest support to the measures necessary to its success.

By the Report of the American Canal Commissioners in January 1817, it appears—That the great Western Canal, when completed, will be in length 353 miles, 29 1-2 chains, in width on the water surface 40 feet, in width at the bottom 28 feet, and in depth of water 4 feet.

That the length of the Locks is ninety, and their width in the clear twelve feet. That the estimate of the total expense for completing the said Canal, is \$4,881,738; or at the average rate, including the expense of constructing seventy-seven Locks, of about \$13,830, or a little more than three thousand Pounds Sterling per mile. And from subsequent Reports of the same Commissioners, it appears, that hitherto the work has been done at a rate greatly within the Estimate. This then is data for us to go upon, and by which we may be enabled to form a tolerably correct estimate of the sum it would require to complete a work of such vast public utility. Your Committee, in this first Report, do not consider it necessary, neither are they prepared to go into any detail respecting the Canal; they wish merely to draw the attention of the Government and the