

COMPARED DISTANCE.

The difference of distance of the Brookville route as compared with that passing by Henry Griffith's estimated from the mouth of the Whetstone Branch on the Seneca to the mouth of Hawlings River on the Patuxent is 5.85 miles. The Brookville route being the shorter.

RESPECTING A LOWER ROUTE.

Before alluding to the gauging of the streams and while the line surveyed is in your recollection we shall now advert to any farther information in our possession regarding the country below or to the South of the Brookville route, or in reference to the possibility of a lower route in that quarter. The height of the Rockville Ridge where crossed this season; to wit, at the head of the Whetstone Branch (marked K. on the map) is 528 feet above tide. From this point on the Rockville Ridge proceeding South along its water line the heights as marked on the maps indicate a rise on the ridge on the first mile, the height first given being 558, near the crossing of the Rockville and Middlebrook Road. At this place the ridge is likewise much wider. Beyond this point however, and continuing along the top towards Rockville it descends rapidly till within a mile of Rockville, when the heights are 490 and 461 feet: at Rockville 447. The ridge was examined in this quarter with reference to a route up the Long Draught Branch from the Seneca instead of up the Whetstone Branch. Such a route would have reduced the extent of tunnelling on the Rockville Ridge but it would also have increased the length of the 'summit pass' probably about three miles, and likewise the length of the summit feeder from the Seneca Valley. The survey was therefore dropped until it had been ascertained whether the route by the Whetstone Branch, the shorter of the two, was practicable in respect to supplies of water, for if not the examinations of the other would obviously be superfluous; it would be superfluous indeed in connection with the route surveyed unless there was a sufficient surplus of water to comprehend the increased length of the 'summit pass' by the Long Draught route as well as the increased length of the feeders. Other things being sufficient the crossing near Garritt's, about a mile North from Rockville, (marked M on the map.) the height of which above mean tide we have already given as 461 feet, would have reduced the tunnelling to 3000 feet in length, provided we can pass, as was supposed, but not verified by measurement, from the Long Draught Valley into the head of the Muddy Branch without tunnelling. These examinations are otherwise interesting in reference to the possibility of an entirely new route which should necessarily assume a still lower summit level, and by consequence possibly afford sufficient water without resorting to reservoirs, or at least to so many of them. There is little information indeed on record to encourage the idea that such a route can be found, still the subject is open until it has been demonstrated on other grounds than mere opinion that it is unavailable. The prominent merits of the question as we have already