

SKINNER'S GRAND CENTRAL BASIN.

APRIL 20, 1830.

Read, and referred to the Committee on Internal Improvements.

Mr. TALIAFERRO, from the Committee for the District of Columbia, to which had been referred, in part, the letter from Mr. Skinner, upon the subject of a central canal basin in the city of Washington, made the following

REPORT:

*Mr. Taliaferro made the following report:*

The Committee for the District of Columbia, to whom was referred, in part, the letter of Mr. Skinner, addressed to the House of Representatives, upon the subject of a central canal basin in the city of Washington, and the supply of water for the public buildings, &c. &c. have had the same under consideration, and concur in three general propositions. The first is, that the proposed central basin would be a superb and highly ornamental finish to the arrangement of the public grounds on the West of the Capitol, as well as the most appropriate and useful harbor and mart of trade in the centre of the city, on a convenient line between its heavy and distributory commerce, which in its present condition are too widely separated. The second is, that this reservoir, fed by a suitable conductor from the Georgetown basin, would give, by the application of suitable means, an abundant supply of water for the security of the public buildings against fire, &c. &c. The third is, that the whole plan taken together would bring into the market a large amount of building lots, which, added to the tolls and wharfage of the basin, might probably produce a fund more in amount than the cost of the work. The committee, however, not having the time or the means to make the necessary estimates, are of opinion that the subject deserves examination; and, believing that the object falls more properly within the range of the functions of another committee, ask to be discharged from its further consideration, and beg leave to recommend to the House the following resolution:

*Resolved,* That the Committee on Internal Improvements be instructed to take the subject under their consideration, and to decide on the propriety of requesting the President of the United States to cause an examination to be made into the practicability, utility, and cost, of the contemplated work; and order a report of the result of such examination to be made to the present or to the next session of Congress.

The foregoing resolution being read, was, on the question put thereon, agreed to by the House.