

before these wants will be adequately supplied. While other States are pressing forward, Maryland must not lag behind; and it cannot be doubted that the results of her great future may be hastened by timely and vigorous legislation. I would invite the earnest attention of the General Assembly to this important subject, and urge, in view of the large influx of foreign emigrants likely to arrive upon our shores in the next few years, and the great advantage of securing a fair proportion to our State, that the subject receive your earnest attention. It will be perceived that the plan suggested involves little more than the necessary organization of the Board of Public works, as provided for in the Constitution; and the immigration feature which it is intended to embody, may be dispensed with whenever the objects to be accomplished have been so far successful as to render further effort in this direction no longer indispensable. Any expense attending the establishment of this Board should be made to fall rateably upon the receipts into the Treasury of all the Internal Improvement Companies holding charters from the State.

#### HARBOR OF BALTIMORE—SHIP CHANNEL—OCEAN STEAMERS.

The transition through which we are now passing, and the important geographical position of our State, as established by the events and statistics of the last four years, both in the relation in which we stand to the seat of the Federal Government, as well as our sister States, suggest the necessity for increased effort in the new career upon which we are entering. The central State upon the Atlantic coast, Maryland, has heretofore claimed to be the first, in the facilities which she offers, of commercial interchange with the great Valley of the Mississippi, and the remote States of the West; and certainly stands at no disadvantage in the characteristics of climate, soil, minerals, including coal and iron, water power, and convenient egress to the more distant markets of our own and other countries. More than ten years ago, while in charge of your chief work of Internal Improvement, I took occasion to remark, in an address to the people of Baltimore, while illustrating the effect of the system of Rail Roads, then being projected, that "the geographical position of Baltimore, aided by her cheap tonnage communication with the West, must demonstrate that both New York and Boston will seek, as a measure of economy, to form their combinations *through her*, as the most advantageous, by which to supply the wants of the great West and the Valley of the Mississippi." These views have lost none of their practical weight. On the contrary, they have steadily grown in importance. It was no part of my policy, at that early period, in any agency I may