

should look with indifference upon the exercise of powers, by the general government, under the authority of that body, calculated to oppress the people of the respective states?—Would they, as citizens of the United States and component parts of the national government, attempt to violate their rights, or oppress themselves, as citizens of the respective states?

In the event of a proposition being made in congress, calculated to bear heavily on their constituents, would not their feelings naturally revert to their immediate friends—their homes—and their firesides?

If under the authority, “to regulate commerce,” light-houses may be built; sand bars and other obstructions removed, from the mouths and beds of rivers, and sea walls erected—if, in short, it be admitted, that *the works of nature may be at all changed*, with a view to promote and facilitate the operations of commerce or war—how can it be denied, that, for the *same purposes*, roads may be graduated and turnpiked, or intervening mountains cut through to connect water courses?—as is contemplated in that great work, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, which is of so much importance in a national, as well as local point of view, and is, at this time, justly exciting an interest so deep and extensive; and which is of such a character and magnitude, as to preclude a hope of its being accomplished, by the exertions of individual states.