

already obtained, presents every encouragement...

It would be unnecessary to dwell on the importance of the Susquehanna in any scheme of internal improvement. Reaching the Seneca lake on the north, it becomes connected with that great canal which now illumines the character of the people of New York for domestic enterprise; and by this means may connect the northern lakes with the Chesapeake. On the west, its branches descend from the remotest hill of the Allegany chain, and being contiguous to the branches of the Allegany river, by that means may be hereafter improved into a communication with lake Erie and Ohio.

The river Potomac, ever since the institution of our Government, has been deemed to present, in a political view, considerations of the first magnitude. As it offers on the map the nearest, and apparently the best communication with the navigable waters of the Ohio, it has frequently received the attention of public bodies, and of public men who directed the affairs of Government; among whom, President Washington was distinguished by his zeal. The powerful effect of good roads, canals, and other commodious channels of intercourse, in strengthening the ties which bind together the inhabitants of different sections of country, has been long felt and acknowledged. From the earliest settlements of the regions west of the Allegany mountains, it has been thought an object of vital interest to connect them as closely as possible, by opening and facilitating every channel of intercourse with the Atlantic. The facilities afforded by navigation are superior to all other; and it had long been hoped that Potomac would afford the route and the means of constructing a navigable canal connecting it with the waters of the Ohio. The Potomac company, claiming under their charter a property in the river, has (it is believed) not yet fully explored the upper sources of the river with a view to that object; and it is the more to be regretted that this company is permitted to languish under pecuniary difficulties, as recent information, more particular as the mountainous country is surveyed and opened, renders it highly probable that there exist communications not heretofore known; and in particular, one through gaps or breaks in the mountains, where it would be practicable to lead a