

Nothing has more engrossed the public attention than the improvement of our internal resources, and the facilities of intercourse, as regards commerce among ourselves, and the introduction, within our borders, of the abundant and growing products of neighbouring territories, which are there to seek a market and exportation. The tendency of this system to increase capital, to excite to industry and to enterprize, to extend trade, to augment population and to promote consumption, are the obvious inducements to look to it with anxious expectation. That a diversity of opinion should have existed at first upon this subject, might reasonably have been expected. The citizens in the interior, inhabiting that portion of the state, the surface of which is superabundantly spread over with rock, hill and mountain, that oppose the greatest obstacles to intercourse, would naturally approve of a system that would remove such obstructions; whilst those who live on a smoother surface, delightfully intersected by innumerable navigable waters, where almost every farm has a landing within its own precincts, from which to transport its productions by water to a market, would as naturally, at first, want faith in the utility of such costly artificial conveniences. But when further reflection was brought to the view of all, that rail roads and canals were calculated, not only to identify the interests of this extensive country, and strengthen the union of the states, but to be the means of drawing to our great emporium, situated in the very midst of the state, the redundant productions of the fertile west, and that the necessary result of this would be the augmentation of the wealth and prosperity of the whole state, first impressions have gradually yielded to more salutary convictions; and the Executive feel themselves authorized to believe that the sentiment in favor of internal improvement is growing among the people. The vesting the funds of the state in these undertakings created a fear, least in the ultimate failure of works in which our country had hitherto had, comparatively, but little experience, the loss might fall upon the people of the state, or in any event, that a recourse would be had to taxes to enable the state to pay up its subscription. Hitherto these fears have been groundless, and we hope will continue to be so. Upon this, however, and upon such subjects, the people have a just reliance upon their representatives; whose wisdom, fidelity and vigilance, will be, as they ought to be, sure pledges for their protection; and feeling as the representatives must do, a common interest with their constituents, successive legislatures are but successive safeguards over these and other important trusts, confided to their care.