

power; and it is for the wisdom of an enlightened Legislature to guard against any permanent obstruction to its easy application.

Another end is also designed to be promoted by the substitution—security and comfort to the traveller.

It is known that many lives have been lost on the canals of New-York, by the erection of bridges across them. Such bridges must be very low, or the inclined plane or road leading to or from them so steep as to be alike laborious and dangerous to ascend. A low bridge necessarily occasions a low pitched boat, with a single deck, and a roof which no passenger dare stand upon, without encountering continually-occurring hazard from the bridges under which he is to pass. From such a boat, exposed to the direct action of the sun's rays, the current of air is excluded by the canal banks, while every noxious winged insect is attracted to it by the stagnant atmosphere in its vicinity. A boat, on the contrary, unobstructed by bridges, may be lifted, by a second or third story, above the banks of the canal, so that the traveller will be regaled by currents of fresh air, and an unobstructed prospect of the country around him, and find ample accommodation for exercise by day, and quiet repose by night. All this, too, he will have added to increased velocity and perfect safety, especially if the steam boat be used to tow the passage boats. The undersigned are confident of obtaining a velocity of one hundred and fifty miles a day for the passage boats of their canal, if no impediment be thrown in their way by bridges. They, therefore, ask to be relieved from any supposed necessity of constructing them; and, in lieu of them, to be allowed to establish ferries on public roads, and to enter into a reasonable composition with proprietors, where estates are divided by the canal line, to supply a boat for their use, when needed, or to purchase or acquire the slip of land cut off from any larger tract, by the canal, and afterwards to hold, sell, let, or otherwise dispose of it, for the benefit of the company.

The undersigned are induced to believe that this power may be advantageously extended, so far as to enable the President and Directors, with the consent of any proprietor, to buy on reasonable terms, the entire estate where so divided, and afterwards to hold, let, or otherwise dispose of it, on such terms as to exclude the necessity of any passway over the canal.

Regarding the preceding as a single purpose, involving