

*Thirdly*—Their letter to James Madison, president of the United States, December, 1811, p. 90, same vol.

‘SIR,—The enclosed exemplification of a statute, passed the eighth of last April, will show that we are empowered to make application on behalf of the State of New York, to the Congress of the United States, on the subject of a canal between the great lakes and Hudson’s river.

‘An object of such great concern, seems to be within the scope of that information which is to be communicated to the National Legislature by the President of the United States, and, therefore, we deemed it our duty to place it in your hands.

‘We do not assign reasons in its support, because they will not escape your penetration; neither do we solicit your patronage, because we rely on your patriotism. It is submitted to your consideration, in the most simple form; and we have charged two of our members, Gouverneur Morris and De Witt Clinton to give you, sir, in presenting this letter, the personal assurance of that respect with which we have the honor to be your most obedient servants.’

*Fourthly*—Extracts from the report made 1812, to their colleagues, by Gouverneur Morris and De Witt Clinton, pages 91, 92, same vol.

‘That they proceeded to the seat of the general government by the way of Lancaster, where they took measures to obtain the concurrence of the Legislature of Pennsylvania.

‘On the twenty-first of December, they waited on the President of the United States, and found him, although he expressed himself to be an enthusiast as to the advantage of interior navigation by means of canals, *embarrassed by scruples derived from his interpretation of the Constitution*. At the close of their visit, however, he was in a better disposition, which is evidenced by his message to Congress, of the twenty-third of December, copy whereof is annexed.

‘On the twenty-fourth they attended the Treasury office and found the secretary desirous of performing this and other works of a similar nature, conformably to the plan which he had reported at the precedent session.

‘He was of opinion that, under present circumstances, pecuniary aid would not be given; but that sufficient grants of land might be now made without inconvenience to the fiscal concerns of the Union, and these grants be afterwards redeemed by cash, when the treasury shall be in a more prosperous condition.

‘Your committee found an idea prevailing with some, and zealously inculcated on others, that it would be wise so to amend the Constitution, as expressly to authorize the general government to incorporate banks, and make roads and canals without consent of the States.