

limited importance, will recall the attention of Congress to the signal advantages to be derived to the United States from a general system of internal communication and conveyance; and suggest to their consideration, whatever steps may be proper on their part, towards its introduction and accomplishment. As some of these advantages have an intimate connection with arrangements and exertions for the general security, it is a period calling for these, that the merits of such a system will be seen in the strongest light.

JAMES MADISON.'

WASHINGTON, *December 23, 1811.*

*Sixthly*—An extract from the report of the canal commissioners to the Legislature of New York, 1814, same vol. p. 103.

'The commissioners, have, in the meantime, caused further investigation to be made, and would not have suspended the surveys, as they did, during the last summer, but for military operations which are not favorable to internal improvement. They have, however, the satisfaction to state that every examination tends to show, not only the practicability, but the facility of this enterprise; so far as the term facility can reasonably be applied to a work of such magnitude. They add, with much pleasure, that it will not be difficult to extend this communication to the fertile vales watered by the Susquehanna, and its wide spreading branches.— Hence they presume, that the public spirit which has always characterized Pennsylvania, will, at a proper time, induce her to cooperate. It may, indeed, be objected, that, to facilitate the intercourse of a commercial rival, may be of more comparative loss than positive advantage. *But far be such jealousies from the councils of New York.* Marked by nature for greatness, and strong in the consciousness of intrinsic strength, *she will always feel that nobleness of soul, which rather accelerates, than retards her neighbor's prosperity.'*

*Seventhly.*—A tabular view that I have compiled from the bill which De Witt Clinton and Gouveneur Morris prepared and submitted to the committee of Congress to whom their memorial was referred, and which illustrates *their consciousness of the intrinsic strength of the State of New York, their ideas of her nobleness of soul, and of the way in which she should rather accelerate than retard her neighbour's prosperity*—in other words, the purpose of those distinguished citizens to take the lion's share of the spoils, for the empire State, to prove 'the moderate terms of their request.'