

Western Lake with the Hudson river, and was completed, and in full operation before, to use the language of a forcible writer, "the new fangled system of internal improvements was hatched from its embryo." This destructive *system*, says the same author, "is wholly of modern growth. It owes its origin to the unchartered aspirations of political ambition, and has been sustained upon the mercenary and demoralizing principle, that sections of the State can be subsidized into political subservience by holding out as a bribe the plunder of the whole community—the local interests, like individual cupidity, the more nearly they are concentrated are the more intense, and consequently that attacks made by sections to fasten upon the property and rights of the whole, will be more vigorous than resistance—that aggression in such cases of drilled and disciplined combinations, will always be stronger than repulsion. Under this system, millions upon millions of the public wealth have been squandered and lost. No efforts have been able to shield the rights of the whole from the most wanton and ravenous aggressions. And the States with their sinking credit, may now be likened to a disabled and prostrate elephant, with a host of tigers, hyenas, jackalls, and vultures tearing its flesh, and growing more ferocious the more they are gorged in blood."

It is not difficult to perceive the truth of the picture here drawn:—it is exact in each feature, and a true description of the enfeebled condition of our good old State. In vain will it be for those who have urged this course, to attempt to shield themselves behind the justly impregnable fame of the immortal Washington. He held no opinion in common with them, and would, as his entire history establishes, have avoided such men, as he would an evil. His aim was to build up a nation of independent, industrious and happy freemen; and not to subjugate his fellow men into slavery—to burden them with taxes—to deprive them not only of the comforts but the very necessaries of life, as will in the end, it is to be feared, be the effect of the pernicious and demoralizing *system* of internal improvements, that has effected such a strong grasp upon our country and its means.

The truth of the matter is, that the fame acquired by the late De Witt Clinton, in prosecuting to a successful completion a great work, so dazzled the minds of aspirants, as to induce them to emulate it. Their brains were frenzied by the inten-