

sity of the desire to equal him by similar achievements, and they became the fit tools of the designing and intriguing. The history of the most prominent of them is a sufficient commentary to show the inutility of any of their suggestions or projects. They have generally wound themselves up in pecuniary matters, and terminated their career in either misery or want. They have however, succeeded in entailing upon the people of these States, a degree of servitude, which to those who by nature and education are free, will be far from pleasant. "The very essence of slavery" says Mr. Jefferson, "consists in the exercise of arbitrary power by one portion of the human race over another, in controlling their labor and appropriating the avails of their industry." This has been the effect of "the wild system of internal improvements" of the present day;— it has been substantially, the arbitrary appropriation of the avails of industry to the private interests of others.

To the undersigned, it is a source of great satisfaction, that those with whom he is politically associated, have ever been as a party, uncompromisingly opposed to the *system* and have uniformly opposed the extension of its influence. The exceptions to this rule of conduct, are but examples of a departure from their cardinal principles, and will serve to illustrate the corrupting influence of the system, in being capable of successfully appealing to the local prejudices and jealousies of particular sections.

The undersigned wishes to be distinctly understood, not as the enemy of internal improvements, but as their friend. It is the *system* on which they have been conducted that he opposes. Some of the works which the State has aided, he most heartily approves of, and anxiously looks forward to the day when they will be completed.

The action of the Legislature, founded on the principles indicated, has resulted in, as is well known, the serious embarrassments of the State. It now remains to be shown what circumstances have materially contributed to increase the embarrassment, particularly those connected with the past management of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal company, and to explain the present condition of its finances, and to point out, in some degree, the erroneous views entertained as to the amount required to complete the canal to Cumberland,—to pay its debts, and provide for the payment of the interest on the loan proposed.