

Jan. 2.]

OF THE SENATE.

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the requests contained in the said communications, we respectfully recommend them to your attention.

Among the subjects most worthy of being brought to your notice, on the present occasion, you will permit us to mention our great works of Internal Improvement. Next to the promotion of virtue and general diffusion of knowledge, it appears to us, that there is no more noble task; none more worthy of the patriotic exertions of a Republican people, or their Representatives, than that of improving the conveniencies, and facilitating the means of social and commercial intercourse. Looking into history, we shall find those portions, both of the ancient and modern world, most renowned for the cultivation of the arts of peace, or which have transmitted to posterity, or now exhibit, the brightest examples of wealth, prosperity and liberal institutions, or in which, we see the nearest approximation to the only true and legitimate ends of Government—the happiness and prosperity of the People, have ever been most distinguished for works of this description.

Could Egypt ever have been what she once was, the home of Myriads of happy and prosperous human beings—the chosen seat of the arts, elegance, literature, and refinement—the store house and granary of the world—but for her numerous channels of inter-communication—her noble works of internal improvement? But for these, could so vast an Empire have long endured, in the then condition of the world? But for these, would it not have fallen to pieces by its own weight? Could sympathies and affections have been kept alive between its various parts, but for the easy, free, and frequent intercourse of all her citizens, by means of her internal improvements?

Look to Holland—to France—to England, see the striking contrast in favor of the liberty, prosperity and happiness of their people, when compared with the neighboring nations; and see, too, their great progress in, and still zealous prosecution of, internal improvements.

With such examples before us, and others more recent, but not less striking within the limits of our own