

From this point, there is an uninterrupted water communication, to the renowned commercial city of New-York, the safest and best market in the United States.—Two streams, the St. Joseph, and St. Mary's find their source in the state of Ohio, from the Maumee at Fort Wayne, in this state, which, from thence discharge its waters into Lake Erie. These are the natural facilities that are presented to the north to reduce western produce into money. There are thirty seven thousand square miles in the state, and nine tenths of all this land are susceptible of cultivation. This will support a population of ten millions of souls. An industrious and virtuous race of people are rapidly preparing these extensive domains for the plough; so that in a little time, we may expect that the granary of the husbandman will be overflowing to waste, with the various productions of the earth, without an opportunity of selling them.—These results in the regular course of things, will take place. Thus situated, let us arise, look around us, examine our condition and resources, and see what can be done to meet the exigencies of the times. The yeomanry are the pillars and support of the land, and they must be rewarded. It is the farmer that gives countenance to every other avocation.—Agriculture, with many ceases to be an honorable pursuit, so soon as it fails to be profitable; and whenever circumstances connected with public opinion shall withdraw that class from their legitimate employments, the flower of the land becomes at once neutralized, and general wretchedness is the fatal consequence.

The labourer, to give him resolution, should always have before him a prospect of certain reward. When he is not stimulated with the expectation of receiving an ample recompence for his toil, his energies become paralyzed, and his views are contracted within the narrow compass of domestic family consumption. This prospect of a full reward for labour, will always be certain or hazardous, in proportion to the distance, which the commodity, the product of it, had necessarily to be transported for consumption sale or exchange; and in proportion to the facility with which the conveyance is effected.—Add to this, that time is money to the labourer, and that labour is the wealth of a nation; and it results that every obstacle which is in the way, that unavoidably consumes time, and employs the labourer in reaching the market he seeks, not only impoverishes the country, but reduces the aggregate sum finally received for the article in an exact proportion to the time lost: so, that every reduction of distance and every improvement which are made for travelling, are a saving of time and money, of individual and public advantage.

From these considerations it is evident that the settlers of a new country, must be subjected to many privations and a heavy indirect tax, imposed upon them by the rude deformity of surrounding nature. To them, finding access to any place that is serviceable, diminishes the real value of every ponderous commodity much, before they can get into the possession of an equivalent for the remainder. Although this kind of a tax exceeds ten times the amount which is yearly paid for the support of the government, yet it appears that it has escaped with less consideration, and more indifference, than it. Nothing is at stake in the assertion, that the absence of public works and artificial aid are the heaviest, deadliest, weight that bear upon this country, and I would give the supervisor a compensation the capital causes of complaint with them, and then compel him to a strict performance of the law. Without some such course as this, we shall continue as obstructed navigation and neglected unimproved roads, that create the prime, though seemingly unseen cause of ruin, at the reduced price of our staple commodities. Owing these surmountable barriers to general prosperity, and you will at once infuse new life into our fellow citizens. If you are at present awed into dull neutrality by the fear of public opinion, be assured that the hour of release is at hand. The prejudice which exists in some places against internal improvement, is redeeming itself. The whole country as if by one universal impulse, is moved by the master spirit that is abroad. Lead the way, bring home visible benefits to the doors of your constituents, and you will confidently hear from that same dreaded public sentiment, a favourable echo. The people will consult their own interest, and the force of information will induce them to yield to what is right. It is not denied that the true remedy for these grievances, is ultimately to be found in their wise, thoughtful and patriotic determinations; and experiment will make them sensible, that the one half of the tax they pay upon the transportation of those articles they buy and sell, will place them upon the vantage ground, and put a period to those dangers, sacrifices, and delays that hang like an incubus upon the country. If we "fold up our arms," and make ourselves easy whilst our condition is barely tolerable, under the expectation that some foreign revolution will restore us those times that are gone forever, and change the countenance of

affairs, we may in the end find, that we were deluded by a false hope of visionary benefits, which shall never be realized, leaving that time inertness, a blank in the history of our rise to eminence and glory.

On the construction of roads and canals, then we must rely, as the safest and most certain state policy, to relieve our situation, place us amongst the first in the Union; and change the "cry of hard times," into an open acknowledgement of contentedness. *The rough appearance of nature, must be overcome, and made to yield to human enterprise. Our waters must be imprisoned in new channels, and made to subserve the essential purposes of commerce.*

As the construction of roads are not so expensive as canals, and more applicable to the present resources of the state, allow me to request that, that subject may command your calm and unbiased consideration. View deliberately their construction, as your vital interest, seize the first occasion to prepare for the work, and a brilliant reward is certain.

Situated as we are upon the globe, we have but one alternative, which is, to force our way to the Lakes, and to the great rivers that run into the seas; and if we have not the means at present to make artificial channels, through the earth for our necessities, let us no longer look with indifference upon those secondary improvements, so honorable to a state and beneficial to its inhabitants. We must strike at the internal improvement of the state, or form our minds to remain poor and unacquainted with each other; and those great projects to which we are so strongly united by nature, policy and honor must exist only in idea, and their usefulness remain undeveloped.

This generation is speedily passing away, and if we sit still, posterity will see nothing in our actions that is worthy of their admiration. Whilst our sisters around us are rearing eternal monuments of their energies and public spirit, we have looked and admired; but have been too timid to imitate!!! Something has been done by the General Government, and something by the state, to locate and improve roads, but much more remains to be done before we can feel their utility. Many roads have been defectively opened under authority of this state, but the manner they have been kept in repair, from the state they are now in, are striking evidences of a defect in our road system. Too much reliance is placed upon the three per cent fund. If that fund, after it is divided amongst the whole number of roads in the state, shall be found insufficient to make them passable; and if the state is not in circumstances to appropriate monies from the treasury for that purpose, a just regard to your duty and the rights of your constituents, will prompt you to call into requisition such additional labor of the people upon equitable terms, as may be thought sufficient to improve, in a proper manner, our numerous highways, to such an extent as a due respect for individual rights will admit of. Whoever reflects that labor upon the public highway is not industry lost, but bestowed to accomplish a purpose of common advantage to the whole community, in which each individual can participate, will cheerfully comply with any reasonable demand which you may think fit to make. The patriotic citizen will submit to it with alacrity. Your law on this subject, should contain what the existing one does not, a severe punitive clause against the supervisor for neglect of duty. The present laws are barely directory and have no sanction. I would give the supervisor a compensation, and then compel him to a strict performance of the law. Without some such course as this, we shall continue as obstructed navigation and neglected unimproved roads, that create the prime, though seemingly unseen cause of ruin, at the reduced price of our staple commodities. Owing these surmountable barriers to general prosperity, and you will at once infuse new life into our fellow citizens. If you are at present awed into dull neutrality by the fear of public opinion, be assured that the hour of release is at hand. The prejudice which exists in some places against internal improvement, is redeeming itself. The whole country as if by one universal impulse, is moved by the master spirit that is abroad. Lead the way, bring home visible benefits to the doors of your constituents, and you will confidently hear from that same dreaded public sentiment, a favourable echo. The people will consult their own interest, and the force of information will induce them to yield to what is right. It is not denied that the true remedy for these grievances, is ultimately to be found in their wise, thoughtful and patriotic determinations; and experiment will make them sensible, that the one half of the tax they pay upon the transportation of those articles they buy and sell, will place them upon the vantage ground, and put a period to those dangers, sacrifices, and delays that hang like an incubus upon the country. If we "fold up our arms," and make ourselves easy whilst our condition is barely tolerable, under the expectation that some foreign revolution will restore us those times that are gone forever, and change the countenance of

your attention is again called to the situation of the two White rivers and White Water. These streams afford a good navigation during several months in the year. The flat bottomed boat can descend them with her cargo; but there are several places in the rivers where large piles of drift wood are collected, extending across the streams, which subject the vessel to imminent danger of being wrecked. These collections of drift with some sawyers in the bed of the channel, and one or two inconsiderable falls in the White rivers, embrace the impediments to the navigation of these water courses. Considering the extent of country which these streams pass

through, the density of the population near them, and the multitude that depend upon them for the exportation of their surplus produce, as well as the small amount of money which will be required to remove the obstructions in them, I would respectfully recommend an appropriation for that purpose. I am apprised that there are other water courses in the state, that deserve your favorable notice, but as our means are inconsiderable yet, for any of these objects, the largest and most useful should first enlist our attention.

By the attention of our delegation in Congress, and special favor of the heads of departments of the General Government, a corps of engineers entered the state during the last spring, with the view of operating here, with the worthy, but now deceased Mr. Shriver at their head. The intelligent Mr. Shriver's plan of operations for the season was, to enquire into the practicability of the White Water canal, by making an examination of the country from the Ohio river at Lawrenceburg, through the valley of White Water, to Fort Wayne; and to ascertain the practicability of connecting the waters of the Maumee with the Wabash by artificial channel; & to make surveys and estimates of a route for a canal through the valley of that stream if necessary.—After attending to these two projects, he expected to repair to the Falls of the Ohio, in obedience unto special instructions to enquire as to the practicability of a canal round the Falls of the Ohio, and to prepare a plan and estimate of the same. A summons to leave the world has taken this competent engineer away, without allowing him to effect his purposes to any considerable extent.—But Major Moore is the successor of the deceased, who has been some time in the field, in the execution of the above mentioned plan. His labors have been crowned with complete success to the north.—He has ascertained that the connection of the Wabash and Maumee is altogether practicable and easy. The two waters can be made to mingle at an expense not to be compared with the magnitude of the work. From the St. Mary's, the adopted feeder, to the mouth of Little river of the Wabash, the deepest cut through the summit level is only twenty feet. Major Moore, not having completed his examinations in that quarter this fall, expects to return to his station in the spring, when we shall be furnished with the official estimates to this contemplated canal. So soon as this takes place it will deserve the most serious consideration of the legislature, whether the honor and interest of the state will strongly invite her to complete this almost natural connexion between two navigable streams, whose waters flow to a northern lake, and towards the Atlantic ocean. We remain uninformed, whether any thing further has been done, at the Falls of the Ohio, in the White Water country, or elsewhere, by the board of engineers which would seem to require any special attention at this time.

In inviting your attention to an improvement of the Wabash falls, near the mouth of White river, it is with much satisfaction that I can bear testimony to the liberal spirit indicated by the state of Illinois, to assist in the removal of those obstructions, in that great common highway to market. From a copy of an act of the state of Illinois, which has been transmitted to me, together with a memorial relating thereto, (all of which I lay before you) it will appear that, that state has incorporated a company under the belief, and possessing efficiency only on the contingency, that Indiana will meet the proposition of that state by the passage of a similar law. Being satisfied of the urgency of this measure and the usefulness of the design, I must recommend a hearty and an immediate co-operation with our sister state in this laudable scheme. As the proposition first emanated from us, to make this improvement, and has been generously responded to by Illinois, a charter with powers co-extensive with theirs, and commensurate with the high object, is expected from you.

In the month of October last, the diplomatic agents of the United States, held a treaty with the Miami and Pottawattama Indians, in the valley and on the north bank of the Wabash, in this state, with the view of extinguishing their title to lands. This negotiation, with great labor, resulted in a session of between two and three millions of acres of land to the United States, lying within the limits of this state; which, will doubtless soon be surveyed and offered for sale. Having explored a considerable portion of this newly acquired territory in person, I can speak with certainty as to its real value and advantages. This country lies on the North and West sides of the Wabash, West and South of the St. Joseph's, and bordering on Lake Michigan. No new country can present greater inducements to the emigrant. It cannot be said, that it is the garden of Hesperides; but with its rich soil, permanent streams for manufactures, living springs, extensive quarries of limestone, thick and durable timber, healthful appearance, and good natural position for commerce, it may be esteemed as the first new country, in value, now in market in

the government. In it, an industrious and economical people may grow rich and happy. The timid Indian parted with this excellent country with painful reluctance. Melancholy experience tells them the consequence of it. They knew that their game will fly from the approach of that bustle which accompanies the location of the whiteman; and they love the country of their birth and the home, and the grave of their fathers too well to follow it. The Miamies retain a little spot of land to live on, which they call their bed, which they have resolved never to part with.—It contains the bones of their ancestors.—This handful of Miamies is a proud though feeble remnant of a once powerful nation. They have dwindled down into a few families, under the operation of their own horrible revengeful and retaliatory laws. They now read their destiny in the approximation of civilized society. They are wasting away and will soon be gone. Being uncultivated and savage in their very natures, when spirituous liquors find their way amongst them, which they always use to excess, all the native, fierce, and fiend-like passions of their souls are aroused by its influences, and they cause blood to flow copiously from each others veins. These frightful revels produce murder upon murder afterwards in cool blood to gratify a furious spirit of revenge. These, though once our enemies, are human beings, and are under the sovereign jurisdiction of the state. Shall we stand still unmoved at these spectacles, giving a license to such brutal butchery? Can we see them thus sinking under the clouds of the valley, unpitied—unnoticed—uninformed—unrestrained in their deeds of violence? Is their blood not spilt in our peace, on our soil, under our eye? Nor is it always Indian blood. I am informed there are not twenty genuine Miamies in that nation. The white male and female have long since intermarried with them, and the color of their skin is changed.—This being the condition of the native people of this land, shall we not interpose and check some of these prevailing sins amongst them? A law inflicting a heavy punishment upon such as shall give or vend spirituous liquors to an Indian, would have the most salutary effect; and let the penalty be given to the informer, as an inducement for discovering the offender.

The Pottawatamies do not carry this exterminating principle to such cruel lengths as the Miamies; but they nevertheless love whiskey too; they believe in its correctness, and would feel the happy consequences of the law. The time has been, when they have all lived without this mad water, and they can do so again. But while we are lashing the foibles of the poor Indian, shall we permit the same vice in the white man to escape our notice? The use of ardent spirits to excess, is beginning to make alarming stains,—deep, indelible impressions on our own character. In some of the states, it is said, habitual drunkenness is punished in a house of correction. Some odium ought to be attached to the practice in Indiana. Whoever can be so regardless of social duty, as to destroy himself by strong drink to the injury of himself and family should be made to smart under a penal law of some kind. I earnestly recommend this subject to your better judgment for an appropriate punishment.

By the treaty with the Pottawatamies a valuable and extensive grant of lands is made to the government for an important and interesting national and state object. That we may be sensibly penetrated with its magnitude and utility, I will ask you to indulge me in making a few cursory remarks in support of the grand project.—Michigan being the only Lake in the north, that belongs exclusively to the United States, it is but reasonable to infer, that we will be more partial to it, than to those in which the Kingdom of Great Britain claims a common right with us, to occupy. On this large and splendid lake a navy can sail on water that is altogether American. On every shore of it, fortification may be erected, on ground that is our own; and there our flag can wave.—Hence, if our old enemy should ever again call us to the strife of battle, we must expect to meet her in the north; and this Lake being the nearest to the bulk of western soldiery, will be looked to as the theatre of operations. The first land to the north of this lake is England's, and will be the landing place of herself, or allies. Should such an unwished for calamity ever befall us, and a requisition should be made upon many of the states of the west and south, for their quota of militia, with orders to meet a foe to the north, it will be easily believed, that Lake Michigan will be the place of rendezvous. Troops and munitions of war would necessarily, have to pass in performing the march the nearest route through the centre of Indiana; and of course the march must be performed on land. The importance of a good road from the Lake to the Ohio, opening a direct communication between them, consequently, becomes, obvious in a national point of view. Add to this the facilities that such a work offers to the emigrant from many of the states, who is in search of these rich new countries, and even that very one which

has just been acquired; and its necessary connexion with the principal objects of the treaty, and its general usefulness will be still more manifest. Such a road will point to the heart of Kentucky, and she ought to be alive to its success. These considerations taken in connexion with the incalculable advantages, which would flow to the people of Indiana, from its construction—the choice of markets that it would present to our citizens—the money that its creation would scatter amongst the laborers, the inducement which it will hold out to settle the wild lands of the United States—the circumstance that it will cross the National road at right angles at our Seat of Government—the assistance that it will give to the farmer and merchant in transporting heavy articles, to and from the Lake or the Ohio, at pleasure—and the general figure it will make upon the map of the state; all, combined together, to demonstrate the expediency of the measure. To make such a road a grant of land was incorporated in that treaty.—One hundred feet in width from the Lake to the Wabash is given for the road to rest upon; and one section of good land, contiguous to, and on each side of the same, is also granted for a road, for each mile, from Lake Michigan to the Ohio river, by way of Indianapolis. Such is the foundation which is laid for this great road. It will now be for the President and Senate of the United States, to approve of the grant. Think I sincerely hope for; and if you think with me on this subject, I must request of you a prompt expression of your views by way of memorial, to be sent to the city of Washington before the treaty is acted upon. I can see no reason why this article should be rejected. A similar provision has been made for Ohio; and the principle has received the sanction of the Senate of the United States. The grant severs the remaining Indian possessions; and when the land granted for this purpose is settled, it will weaken the attachment of the Pottawatamie to his country. Furthermore, the land may be located in the Indian country; and in the event of a non-ratification will revert to its original owners. I flatter myself, therefore that it will be retained for the internal improvement of the country, rather than to see it lost. As it is so grand an object of National and State aggrandizement, let us, I pray you, unite in soliciting its success.

But, while our best energies are exerted to improve the natural advantages and to bring into active and useful extension, the various resources, of the state, shall we leave to neglect the cultivation of the mind, the education of our youth, and the advancement of science and intelligence amongst our fellow citizens?—The reflection, that we are deeply responsible to our successors and to posterity, for a march of intellect coequal with the flowing increase of our population—with the regenerated spirit of the age—and for a diffusion of light and knowledge in proportion to the brightening rays which daily beam new lustre on our falling forests, forbids it. The awakened zeal of the world in the cause of mind, and the golden opportunity which we possess to shine in the republic of letters, forbid it. The pride of our state, aroused by the noble example of her sisters, calls on us to be no longer indebted to them for the progress of knowledge & science: And the time has fully come when our prospects and circumstances will permit this heart cheering subject to receive the fostering attention and countenance of the legislature. Those governments that exist through their usurpations, frauds and force, and whose principle is fear, require an ignorant populace; but in one like ours, where virtue is the principle, and reason alone moves the great machinery, intelligence is the rock on which all hope is reposed. I would therefore earnestly suggest the propriety of extending the means of the state to the furtherance of the object, with such liberality as our combined means will justify. With the control of the available donation in land, which has been vested in you for the use of a Seminary of learning, and of the sections reserved to the inhabitants of the several Congressional townships for the use of common schools, a treasury filled beyond the corresponding charges against it, and a people anxious for the dissemination of useful knowledge to applaud you, I have every confidence that the object of education from its first principles to its more advanced and liberal summits will receive your unserved sanction and effectual encouragement. It must be admitted, that these lands subjected to our use for the best of purposes, although intrinsically valuable, are at present in a great degree, either wild and covered with nature's rank, rich uncultivated growth, (as is to be feared are the minds of too many of our rising youth) or only so partially improved and tenanted, as to be of but trifling avail now, and of little promise to the future.—The propriety is therefore respectfully submitted of giving such permanency to the management or disposal of these various tracts, as will secure an immediate aid and spring to the high objects they were designed to advance.

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