

public domains, together with the lucrative revenues of her New York City Custom House to the national government.

That this vast range of inland navigation, trade, and commerce, to be grown up in the interior of the United States under the industry and enterprise of our people, will be greatly enhanced in its values, by the whole circle of it being fostered by the laws of one general government, instead of being embarrassed and vexed by the varied laws of revenue and inspection of several different conflicting and competing governments, like those in western Europe; and this uniformity of commercial and revenue regulations, being literally a free trade intercourse, will greatly promote the business, social and political relations of our people, assimilate their language, manners, habits, and customs, and cultivate a national character.

That canals, like rivers, unite and combine the reciprocal interests of community. Bonaparte's maxim was *that rivers unite—mountains divide*: but the extension of internal improvements in the United States will eventually subdue the dividing influences of the American mountains, and the Erie canal, as opening a new avenue for foreign trade and commerce with the interior, will serve to cement the political, with the commercial union of the western, with the Atlantic states.

Entertaining these anticipations of the future growth and greatness of our country, it should become the pride and purpose of the citizens of New York to preserve, retain, and improve these natural State advantages, as State properties for the growth of the population and prosperity of her own people; that by the improvement of these local advantages of the state, and with her membership in the national confederacy, she may regain the equivalents of her concessions from her State properties and prerogatives of sovereignty, to form a national government; and from the commanding position which she may acquire, and through the intelligence, integrity and magnanimity of her statesmen and her merchants, she may retain a predominant influence in our national councils, conservative of the great principles of our National Confederacy.

With these imperfect elucidations, and even more feeble anticipations of the future, I leave the subject to the wisdom and sagacity of your Honorable Body, under the ardent hope that you will long hesitate before you entertain any proposition for the reduction of the present established dimensions for the enlargement of the Erie Canal; and your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Lockport, 11 January, 1840.

J. HAWLEY.

APPENDIX.

JESSE HAWLEY, Esq. Lockport:

Albany, March 28, 1840.

Dear Sir—In the early part of the session Mr. Sibley referred to me the able memorial drawn up by you on the subject of the Enlargement of the Erie canal. He requested that I would present the views contained in the same, provided I approved of them, and it was thought advisable to make a general report at this session.

The feeling of hostility seemed to be so strong and rather increasing than diminishing, against the Enlargement in particular, that I was urged to make a report.

The views presented by you seemed to me not only new, but important, and I have given them in substance stating they were yours.

I have enlarged upon the various topics discussed and introduced a variety of statistical matter in support of the several arguments.