

Valuable as that winter examination may be called, as one of the preliminaries to the great enterprise which was commenced a few years afterwards, the labors and explorations of that whole season, together with Judge GEDDES' report and other written statements, are *so inconsistent* with the pretence that it "was not an agreeable work for him to survey the Ontario route," and that "his views were all directed to finding a practical route overland," that they leave *no alternative* to the conclusion that both Judge GEDDES and Mr. DEWITT were intent upon and absorbed with a determined purpose to advance the interests of that route to Ontario and thence to Lake Erie, which, in the years 1800 and 1803, had engaged the pen and dictated the conservation of GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

Although Mr. FORMAN was elected in April, 1807 (elections being then in the spring), the first and regular session of that Legislature did not commence until January, 1808; and Mr. FORMAN had time during that interval to inform himself in regard to the question, so important to the isolated condition of the people of Onondaga, upon which he had been especially elected. That he improved the time, to some extent, for that purpose, and for increasing his abilities for usefulness to the State as well as to his constituents, will appear from the sequel.

In 1807 Mr. FORMAN was a lawyer, having his office at Onondaga Hollow. JAMES GEDDES also lived in that vicinity. He writes in 1829: "Between the years 1804 and 1808 I had often conversed with my neighbor, Judge FORMAN, on the subject of the canal to Lake Erie." And Mr. FORMAN says he conversed freely with Judge GEDDES on the subject. BENAJAH BYINGTON also lived in the same vicinity, and he held the office of Justice of the Peace. The *Genesee Messenger* was published in Canandaigua, and among its agents in most of the central counties in the State, who were authorized to receive subscriptions and payments for it, was JASPER HOPPER, the Postmaster at Onondaga Hollow. Doctor HOSACK says of this newspaper: "It was then extensively circulated." No news-