

REMARKS
ON THE
LACHINE CANAL.

OF all the obstacles which militate against public improvements, none is more powerful in its effects, more pernicious in its consequences, or more deserving of reprobation, than an inordinate degree of *self-interestedness*. Wherever this feeling is allowed to appear in opposition to the public good, it rises like a baneful blight, and by assertions, true or false, by every cunning device and deceitful stratagem which it can invent, operates in *preventing* the commencement—*retarding* the progress, and by *defeating* the best laid schemes, not unfrequently marries the result of undertakings which if allowed to proceed would confer the most essential service on the community at large.

THESE observations it is to be feared have been too strikingly illustrated in the contests and disputes relative to the direction in which the La Chine Canal ought to proceed. For although it was to be hoped that all differences and contentions respecting its route, extent and termination, &c. had been adjusted by the last Legislative enactment for making that Canal—(and which although its general utility was then circumscribed far