

impression on his mind," as he states twenty-five years afterwards that it did, he would have given some expression to it when, on his way home in April following, he had an interview at Utica with Mr. HAWLEY, who was then a merchant at Geneva, and was much interested in any project for public improvements. But no such communication was made. If he had "received an idea" which he regarded as so momentous in 1804, and was unable to bring the subject before that Legislature, of which he was a member, he would of course propose to one of his representatives the next winter, that legislative attention should be called to the subject; or, neglecting that, he would surely have solicited his neighbor JASPER HOPPER, who was one of the members from Onondaga in 1806, to press upon the authorities at Albany an idea of so much importance; and yet there is no record nor any pretence that any such action was taken or contemplated until the election of Mr. FORMAN to the Legislature of 1808;—and yet Mr. FORMAN himself gives a *full contradiction* to the "idea" which it is pretended has been *handed down* from Mr. MORRIS, and to the statement that he was elected on the theory of an overland canal. And if Judge GEDDES had been so much impressed with the paramount importance of an overland route as has been claimed, he could not have consented as he did, without some strong remonstrance, to carry out the instructions of the Surveyor-General, and expend the whole sum appropriated for his expenses and the entire summer and autumn in exploring the Ontario route, including the Niagara Ship Canal project; which service Judge GEDDES says he "entered upon with enthusiasm;" and yet, from the information derived from the "Hercules" essays, or upon the suggestion contained in the closing paragraph of his instructions, he was induced to make a cursory winter examination between the Seneca and Genesee rivers; and he left his home in the month of December and devoted some days amidst the snows, for that purpose.