

lessened, but the community subjected to pay an additional price for many articles above what they now cost. Let a cord of fire-wood be taken as an example: we have already seen that it costs for cartage 1s. 6d. more to bring it from their famous Wind-mill bason, than it would cost to bring it from the beach. But were it brought by the Canal to the centre of the town it could then be carted to the doors of the consumers still 1s. per cord cheaper, thereby making the difference of 2s. 6d. per cord, on what it would cost at the said bason. This sum on the cartage of half the quantity brought every year, say on 15000 cords, amounts to 1875l. or a capital of 81,250l., and there is little doubt but the allowance of one-half is here too small, for were the Canal completed much more than that quantity would come down by it.

In conclusion, let it be remembered that this is a work from which the public are anxiously expecting great benefits, and that if properly performed it is eminently calculated to realise those expectations. The Commissioners entrusted with its execution, are by the act which constitutes them, invested with extensive powers on some points, and on others they are perhaps circumscribed within what they ought to be. But still, by keeping strictly within the provisions of that act, they have it in their power to perform the work in a way which would ensure a large share of the advantages which are expected from it; and as it progresses, and when a more intimate acquaintance with the subject shall have furnished them with opportunities for reflecting upon it, it is to be hoped wherever that authority is cramped by the present act, or where they deem themselves incompetent under its provisions to make any change which they see would be for the public good,