

We have seen that those essays of "Hercules" were "the original and the first publication of the project for the overland route of the canal," and that the author of them did *not* "receive the suggestion as coming from GOUVERNEUR MORRIS."

We also learn from the well authenticated sources which have been set forth, that those essays did furnish both the inspiration and the material for that legislative action initiated by Mr. FORMAN in February, 1808; and, as we have the statements of both Mr. FORMAN and JAMES GEDDES, that they were on terms of frequent and friendly intercourse during several years about that period, and often conversed together on the subject of internal improvements, freely exchanging views and plans with each other, the conclusion is unavoidable, that they both derived their first impressions in favor of an overland route to Lake Erie, from the same source.

The *Genesee Messenger* had its agent, the Postmaster in that village, the county seat of Onondaga, and the paper must have been very generally seen and read there; Mr. GEDDES and Mr. FORMAN were reading and thinking men; both were diligently seeking information in regard to any measures that would be likely to benefit the country of their residence; and we cannot perpetrate such an indignity to their intelligence and patriotism, nor so entirely disregard all the known evidences bearing upon the case, as to permit a doubt that both of those gentlemen read the essays of "Hercules" in November and December, 1807, within forty-eight hours after the newspapers which contained them, were printed.

In addition, therefore, to the claim of priority and originality in regard to the project of an overland canal, made by and in behalf of the author of the "Hercules" essays, I also claim, as the inevitable conclusion from all the recorded facts and circumstances connected with the subject which are known to the public, that JAMES GEDDES received his first intimations of that project from the communications of JESSE HAWLEY.