

seat in that Legislature until January, and his neighbor, JASPER HOPPER, the Post Master, was the agent for the *Genesee Messenger*, and of course was early supplied with every number of that newspaper, Mr. FORMAN had ample opportunity to study all those essays which related to the Erie Canal, before going to enter upon his official duties at Albany. And the coincidence between the views set forth and the language used by Mr. FORMAN, in his speech in support of the resolution he then offered, and the views and language of "Hercules," in the essays published on the third, tenth and twenty-fourth of November and on the fifteenth of December, 1807, suggests the probability that they originated in one and the same mind; and also that the promulgations of "Hercules" had stimulated Mr. FORMAN to the study of that lengthy and abstruse dissertation on canals in the sixth volume of Rees' Encyclopedia, which he did after arriving in Albany.

BENAJAH BYINGTON and JESSE HAWLEY had some correspondence upon this subject in August, 1835, which was published at the time.

Judge OLIVER R. STRONG, an early resident of Syracuse, and of the first respectability, says: "In the years 1807 and 1808 I knew BENAJAH BYINGTON very well. He was a Justice of the Peace, was a man of good education and general cultivation and respectability; and any letters he would write in regard to public matters, or to historic or current events in that vicinity, would be entitled to entire credibility; his veracity was unquestionable." And Judge STRONG adds: "I know BYINGTON must have been intimate with FORMAN, and often in his office."

Mr. BYINGTON wrote to Mr. HAWLEY under date of August 26th, 1835; from which letter I quote as follows: "I can state from recollection which is very distinct on the subject, that I lived near JOSHUA FORMAN (then a lawyer in Onondaga Hollow) in the years 1806, 1807 and 1808; that I was often in his office in those years, and there I saw the newspaper called