

the decay of former hopes, and rendered... certain fall upon our cause; we will... call upon such as think with us, that... of the welfare and character of... State is involved in this policy, to be... and persevering in seconding our... efforts—and on all who doubt or disbelieve... patiently regard the following considerations.

It will strike you all as an undeniable... that the true wealth of a country... consists in its capacity for production... and that the most essential contributors... to these are the industry and wealth of... persons. Is it not then a source of alarm... that so many of the wealthy and industri... natives of North Carolina are continually... withdrawing from her limits? The... crisis of emigration have often been set... forth so strongly and so eloquently, that... we think it scarcely required that we... should in this paper dwell upon them ex... tensively; but we cannot pass by this part... of our duty, without adding if any of you... have ever had a neighbor, to whose kind... ness and intelligence you were indebted... for instruction in business and examples in... virtue,—on whose wisdom you leaned in... the hour of trial, whose benevolence had... helped you when in distress—and who... was reluctantly drawn from amongst you... by the more alluring prospects of the... distant West? You can appreciate, then... with some certainty, the affliction of the... Scientist at this eternal drain of the most... essential elements of his country's great... power. Our arrogant neighbors have... sometimes in moments of spleen, denominated... our land the *Boetia* of America—a country... "where genius sickens and where fancy... dies." Who among us can look to the... Senate of the Union, and perceive so... many of her emigrants reflecting the lustre... of their names upon other States, who can... visit one of our out-stripping neighbors... and perceive the Bench, the Bar, and the... saloon of the private circle, graced with... genius, and sparkling with wit and elo... quence, which a narrow course of State pol... icy had driven from North Carolina, with... out feeling the agony of merited reproach... and mortified pride? It is painful to have... passed thus far this unpleasant topic, but... truth, though it occasion momentary mor... tification, cannot produce other than salut... ary effects: could it but shame us into a... system of public improvement, that by... opening new pursuits and creating new... attractions, might stay this tide of emigra... tion, and thus at once add to the product... ive energy of the State, surely every pat... riotic heart would rejoice.

One of the most important benefits that... we might expect to result from an enlight... ened system of Internal Improvement, is... the propensity that the execution of the... system itself would diffuse through the... community, by the extent of profitable em... ployment it would open to a large number... of persons, beginning with the day-labour... er, and proceeding through all the grades... of the mechanical arts to the scientific... scholar; also the vigor which will be gi... ven to every kind of business, and all the... professions, by the expenditure of large... sums of money. We may the better estimate... this effect, by considering what life and... activity one million of dollars would... diffuse into the trading classes; we must... not contemplate the amount as divided... amongst the people, and ask what would... be the share of each, but we should consider... how much good could be produced by... the successive transits of the same sum... through various hands; thus one thousand... dollars could be made to extinguish debt... to the amount of ten thousand dollars, by... passing into the possession of ten persons... successively who happened to be at the... same time in the condition of creditor and... debtor. You all know how very general... is this condition exists amongst our citi... zens, and how vainly they have hoped for... a change of times to alter it: many have... been the schemes and propositions which... our Statesmen have suggested as remedies... for this depression and stagnation in our... business, and though few of them were... entitled to the sanction of wisdom, some... of them, we all admit, were adapted to our... emergencies, and but for the distraction... and jealousy that has so long prevailed in... our councils, measures of relief would long... since have been adopted. This spirit of... discussion and want of mutual confidence... amongst our citizens, is owing much to our... backwardness in the march of intellect and... great achievement; it is then one of the... most consoling anticipations of the policy... which we recommend, that these jars and... local conflicts of interest shall be driven... from our Legislative Halls. By making... the same interest common to the now dis... cordant sections, by establishing a social... intercourse between men who have heretofore... been strangers, because no common... concernment has ever called them to... gether, the evil will be destroyed, by re... moving the cause which produced it.

Our other consideration we beg leave to... urge upon your attention, and we will then... proceed to a more particular view of the... subject. The reputation of a State... amongst its neighbors, is in a great degree... founded upon the magnitude and import... ance of its Public Works; they are what... a State may point to when asked for her... jewels.—Who ever heard the name of New... York without thinking of her canals? Or... of Maryland, without adverting to the... magnificent structures of her Monumental... City? Who tells of Louisiana without... mentioning the embankment that coun... tains the Father of Rivers to its channel... of our young sister, Ohio, without sty... ling her the *Holland* of America? North... Carolina until lately could boast of one... work that added much to the credit of her... name: she enjoyed the rare possession of... the best piece of stony, that was wrought... by the great *Canova*, but that now... has a crumbling mass.—Can that State... which so liberally opened her hand to the... foreign artist, to honor the memory of the... departed Washington—who so gallantly... threw open her treasury to welcome the

large unless all the parties to this petty... warfare could receive the "placido" of a... charter, and with it a modicum of the... public funds. Simultaneous efforts were... made to render navigable the Roanoke, the... Tar, the Neuse, the Cape Fear, the... Yachin, and the Catawba—the work, we... believe, was in nearly every instance be... gun at the wrong end—instead of com... mencing at the first obstructions that were... met in ascending these streams, so that... every mile of improvement might have... proved its own usefulness, and finally by... degrees have worked the whole system in... to favor—the visionary directors of these... plans ordered the means to hand to be so... bestowed that no part of the undertaking... could avail of all until the whole was com... pleted; the result was, that all these ill... devised schemes fell into discredit about... the same time: individuals in various parts... of the State lost it is believed, in the whole... about \$100,000, and the State Treasury... about half that sum. It seems strange to... us that men should ever have calculated... on any other result from such unwise and... ill concerted projects;—yet their failure is... urged by many as a proof that all other at... tempts must end in the same way, and that... it is therefore, best to sit with our arms... folded and do nothing. The amount lost, if... it is true, was serious to individuals, but... to the State in the aggregate nothing was... lost but the labour, for almost all the money... remained among us. But even if it had... all been a dead loss to North Carolina, it... is compared with her mighty resources as... a mere nothing—she has many citizens... within her borders that have in a single... commercial venture sunk fully that sum—... reversed forever overthrow the sluggish... but they strengthen the sinews and nerve... the soul of all that deserve success.

We cannot retire from this task without... a word of admonition, which past experi... ence shows the propriety of address to... you—after you shall have com... menced in a system of improvement, not... to let your hearts fail, you under whatever... reverse may come. There never was a... great expenditure of money where some... thing was to be made anew, but at some... point of its progress it presented discour... aging appearances and chilling anticipa... tions of ultimate failure. This crisis we... may generally expect to find existing when... the largest sum of money has been ex... pended and just before the undertaking has... begun to realize profit.—In the great *Rico*... Caud this moment of depression was a... gloomy era, but the genius which had pro... jected the measure had infused too much... of its own energy into the enterprise, for... it to be thwarted by the fears of the timid... and leaving little to be regretted but... the insult which these ignominious counsels... offered to the great Patron of the work, it... succeeded—a monument reared to the name... of Clinton, than a bond of strength to the... union of these States. When therefore, the... gloomy period shall come in our un... dertaking, we should be cheered on in our... march, looking to this bright example and... remembering that the darkest hour of the... night is that which precedes the first dawn... of day.

The Convention, with a view to recon... ciling opinions, to dissipate local prej... uices, and to bring about that unity of design... and concert of action so essential to suc... cess, have in the spirit of patriotic com... promise, forborne to designate the point at... which in their opinion, improvement should... begin, and they earnestly recommend the... several Counties of the State to send dele... gates to the Convention at Raleigh, on the... 4th Monday in November, (that) whose... intelligence and patriotism may afford a... guarantee that local preferences will be... yielded up in every question where they... may conflict with the general good of the... State.

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