

real worth, interests that have been built up by years of industrious enterprise, to any speculative object, however laudable, of which the actual value is yet to be submitted to the test of experience.

The great highways that lead into a city are the arteries which flow from the fountains of its wealth; and it is the characteristic of modern legislation to open these channels through hills and over valleys, that the products of the widest possible areas may pour through them into the markets which the cities furnish. The generous emulation which grows up between neighbouring towns promotes that result, and quickens all the elements of prosperity and trade.

To stop up or impede these channels—to cut off the natural inlets of wealth, which have actually given existence to the cities and sustained their growth—are measures which might have been entertained in an earlier age and under more arbitrary governments. But in this country, almost every effort having in view the obstruction in any degree of important navigable waters, has been resisted strenuously and desperately by the towns above the site of the contemplated work. It is, of course, they who are to bear the burden that can best judge of its weight.

Every application of the city of Wheeling for a bridge over the Ohio has been contested by Pittsburg, and successfully contested, until the present Company adopted the bold plan of spanning the stream by an arch of more than one thousand feet, placed quite beyond the reach of steamboats.