

"New York Canals" Newspaper Article, December 21, 1849

New York Canals,—

The products floating on the canals of New York during the past season, are estimated to have amounted to 2,736,230 tons, exceeding 1,100,000 tons the amount transported in 1843. "As an avenue of trade," says the American Review, the Erie Canal "now outstrips every channel of commerce, natural or artificial, in the New or the Old World; it far exceeds the Rhine, which flows through the heart of Europe for five hundred miles, and has its navigation carefully improved by the sovereign powers adjacent to its banks." A line of railroad has been constructed for a long distance parallel to this great canal. But the railroad has not at all affected the water way. There cannot be said to be any rivalry between them, the canal exerting its peculiar advantages for the transportation of heavy freight, and the railroad for the conveyance of passengers. The whole descending cargoes passing over the railroad during the year 1848, were but 29,999 tons, while in seven months of the same season, the Canal took down 1,180,000 tons to tide water! It is added that the value in money of the Canal commerce, which in 1843 had reached \$75,000,000, ascended in 1848 to \$140,000,000. This affords very little encouragement to those who have been hoping to find a railroad substitute for the Mississippi.