June 8, 1826

Messrs. Riker, Agnew, and Bolton, a Committee of the Corporation of N.Y.

I receive gentlemen with great thankfulness the models you have been pleased to send me, commemoratives of the completion of the Erie canal uniting the great Western lakes with the Atlantic ocean. Their great work will immortalize the present authorities of N.Y. who have blessed their descendants with wealth and prosperity, and will serve as an example to mankind of the superior wisdom of employing the resources of nature in works of improvement rather than in those of destruction and devastation. The labors of the present part of their fellow-men to render their posterity better off than the present and teach them how to work, are the means by which the misery and wretchedness of the preceding generation is to be extinguished.

The surviving signers of the charter of our city, to whom you are pleased to send the monuments of this great achievement, may the satisfaction of seeing in these one triumph of their own a proof the more inroad to the many other triumphs of their blessings which have resulted from the measures in which they have been engaged. They valued to embalm their country, as an humble individual of that city, accept my thanks for this mark of attention, and with them which I tender respectfully to the corporation of the city of N.Y. and to yourselves particularly, the owners of these commemoratives, with the assurance of my very high consideration.

[Signature]
Ryker et al. June 8, 26.

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