

the public bank of that State, after the test of many successive years, to the entire approbation of its founders, says: "This should be satisfactory, and certainly ought to operate as a check to any fanciful and untried scheme of improvement"—here it would not seem to be any longer a mere experiment. In a previous letter from the same Ex-President, to a member of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, he explains the meaning of an important provision in the Federal Compact, by saying, the evil which produced this prohibitory clause was the practice of the states in making "bills of credit," and in some instances appraised property a "legal tender." If the notes of the state banks, be not made a "legal tender," they do not fall within the prohibitory clause. He refers to a number of the Federalist on that subject, which, he says, "with other cotemporary expositions, and the uninterrupted practice of the states in creating banks, without making their notes a legal tender, would seem to be a bar to the question, if it were not inexpedient now to agitate it"—and "a virtual, and it is hoped, an adequate remedy may be found in the refusal of debased paper in any of the federal transactions." This testimonial, coming as it does, from a source so high, and from an authority so competent to determine, may be considered as conclusive upon a point, which, to many, has appeared to present an insuperable barrier.

In further support of the doctrine advanced in this report, the committee would submit the following testimonials of public characters.

Extracts of letters received by the chairman of the committee on ways and means, from representatives in congress upon the STATE BANK question:

To wit:—1st From a senator of the State of South Carolina.

WASHINGTON, 4th Feb. 1832.

"Dear Sir:—I have just received your letter, accompanied by a report, on the subject of State Banks: My business will not permit my going at large into the subject.—You are right in saying that the Bank of the State of Carolina, of which the State is the sole proprietor, has succeeded well."