

That the improvement of the harbour is an object of desire to all who trade to Baltimore, cannot be denied; but does it thence result, that this improvement must be achieved at the common charge of the whole state? Is it not equally true that the improvement of a rich estate, by means of roads or draining ditches, is essential to the convenience and accommodation of those who resort to the said estate, but does it follow that visitors, or persons having business with the landlord, or proprietor, are bound to contribute to that improvement? Surely not.

With regard to the revenues paid by the city of Baltimore, into the treasury of the state, which the memorialists allege are paid in the ratio of population, and distributed in the ratio of territory, the committee are compelled to reject the pretension of this position. On the contrary they hold it to be susceptible of demonstration, that not only a large proportion of the amount, apparently, paid by that city, is, in effect, drawn, indirectly, from the pockets of the country, and that an inordinate capital has been absorbed, from year to year, through a long series of years, by direct appropriations to various objects within the city, numerous acts of incorporation, and other indirect operations, to the great injury and impoverishment of the country by deleterious abstraction, and the enriching of the city by accumulation of floating capital. In truth, it cannot be disguised from the vision of those who are competent to a just understanding of the matter, that commercial cities, from the earliest ages of antiquity to modern times, and our own era, have operated as absorbing sponges upon the common fruits of national labour—absorbing, in fact, the political blood and essential aliment of the great body of the population—and that the simple inhabitants of interior sections have ever been the hewers of wood and drawers of water, for the more wily citizens of trading towns. If we advert to the annals of Phœnicia, of Tyre and Sidon, of Jerusalem, and Rome and Carthage, and Venice, down to the Hanse Towns, we may see the proofs of this picture. And the present marts of Europe, and of our own continent, are strong and conclusive upon this point. The committee speak not in the spirit of envy, nor in any-wise of hostility to commercial cities generally, and much less to the emporium of our own state; but merely advert to the fact that the absorption of the wealth of the country, the essence and marrow of the common people, is the natural effect, and inevitable consequence of concentrated population, and the peculiar attractions of trade and traffic; and they would urge upon the good sense of this honourable house, that whilst this effect results from a