

sirable, if it could be effected; and any serious effort to accomplish it, would prove most disastrous to the community generally. The second was not needed, when their measures were commenced, and was without their power to accomplish, if it had been necessary. The third they never avowed, and we trust, will never be adopted, either directly or indirectly. The last, if their motive of action, it is presumed, no one would openly approve or justify.

We do not doubt but that it is *possible*, to sustain a State Bank circulation, which would be promptly redeemed in specie, on demand, and which, for *local* currency, would be all we could desire; but we think that experience has proved conclusively that a National Institution, whose issues will have a *general* circulation, is indispensable to secure uniformity and stability in the various species of circulating media, of which the currency may be composed.

Soon after the suspension of specie payments, we were strongly urged by officers and representatives of the Banks in Baltimore, and by many other citizens, to call a special session of the General Assembly, particularly with a view of repealing or suspending for a time the restriction which prohibited the Banks from issuing notes of less denomination than five dollars, and to the adoption of such other measures as might be deemed necessary to meet the extraordinary crisis. The main object presented to our consideration, although we believed the measure proposed would have been proper, yet did not appear to us of sufficient importance to justify the expense, and inconvenience to the members, at that season of the year, of an extra session of the General Assembly. And we believed that time and further developements were necessary to ascertain what other measures the public interest might require, in consequence of the suspension. We therefore, after mature deliberation, felt it our duty to decline making the proposed call.

Although we did not think that to authorise the Banks to issue notes of less denomination than five dollars would, even under the extraordinary crisis of May last, justify a special call of the General Assembly, yet we believe that the interests of the community, and the stability of the banks would be promoted by a repeal of the restrictions which prohibit such issues. We are aware that in the expression of this opinion we encounter an extensively prevailing prejudice, but, as we firmly believe and think we can demonstrate, great and most pernicious popular error. We think the position, that to withdraw the smaller notes of the Banks from circulation, and supply their place with specie, would improve the general currency, strengthen the Banks, and tend to sustain their credit and the circulation of their larger notes, is, in each and all its parts, entirely erroneous.

It seems to us very clear that the portion of specie in the country, which enters into general circulation, *necessarily* narrows, not "widens" as the popular phrase is, the specie basis of the Banks; and