

pensated for the greater distance of those cities from the West, and attracted to them the greater portion of that trade which had before centred in Maryland. Were the distance from Philadelphia and New York to Pittsburgh the same as from Baltimore, it might perhaps be well questioned whether Maryland should aid, to any extent, in the completion of works that would, after all, place her only in equal competition with these rival cities, and having to contend against the capital already accumulated in them, and the set of business in that direction. But the case is far different; and Maryland has only to open avenues to the West of equal excellence with those that now lead from Philadelphia and New York, to restore to her own chief city all those advantages which, while turnpikes were the best known mode of intercommunication, made it the third city in the Union. The western merchant will seek that market to which he can get his produce transported, and purchases returned home to him, at the least cost; and when the cost of transportation between Baltimore and the Ohio River shall, mile for mile, be the same as from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, Baltimore, nearer than either Philadelphia or New York, will be, as of old, the market that the west will seek. About propositions as plain as those here stated, we think there can be no doubt; and we cannot but believe that the Legislature, firm to the liberal, prudent and wise policy indicated in the internal improvement act of May, 1836, will do every thing that may be necessary and proper to give to it the most full and efficient operation. To have passed such an act, clogged with restrictions and conditions, which would render it a dead letter, never could have been the intention of the Legislature. The design, made evident by the legislation of the last ten years, was to afford the powerful and sufficient aid of the State to the accomplishment of certain great works of internal improvement, in which she had a vital interest, while, at the same time the means of doing so were such as appeared calculated to obtain the desired ends upon the most satisfactory and advantageous terms. If the means suggested, in the first instance, should prove to be impracticable, it is the part of a wise policy to modify them, in such manner as may be found necessary and proper to accomplish the intended objects of the Legislature. Should it therefore appear, when the subject comes before you, that a change in the terms of the internal improvement law of May, 1836, is essential to the objects therein provided for, we cannot doubt that you will do what may be necessary on your part to accomplish the State's system of internal improvement, on the Eastern and Western Shores, and to preserve to Maryland, or rather to bring back to her enjoyment, those advantages in her competition with her sister States which nature has given to her, both along her Eastern border and towards the Western waters, and which it has been the wise and prudent policy of the State's Legislation, heretofore, to improve. Not only is this important in relation to trade and facilities of intercourse