

notes of a less denomination than five dollars and thus the failure to comply with ^{usual} their promises is suggested as a reason for extending their privileges. They would gain ^{disadvantage} by the destruction of the small notes in proportion to the loss of the public: and this is the only advantage they could derive from their issue. If an inferior currency had not already banished their from circulation, the banks might succeed in drawing it from the pockets of the people by means of their one dollar bills. But if they kept it in their vaults they would gain nothing by the operation, and if they parted with it their liabilities would be increased in proportion to the amount of their new issues. The risk of suspensions would be increased in a much greater proportion: because the small notes would pass into the hands of a ~~greater~~ number of that class of persons who suffer most from such issues, and who for that reason are more likely to make a run upon the banks.

Admitting however, that the privilege of issuing small bills might be convenient to the banks, the proper enquiry is whether it would be of advantage to the community. The people are already tired of small notes, and it is their principal reason for wishing a resumption of specie payments. They wish to bring into circulation as much silver coin as will serve for change, and for the small purchases and payments which cannot be conveniently made without it. But paper and coin of the same denomination can never circulate together; and it is in vain to expect any material benefit from a resumption of specie payments, while corporations and individuals are permitted to issue and circulate every description of small notes. To restore the currency of the State to its proper condition, it is necessary to compel the banks to resume, if they will not do it of their own accord; to prevent them from issuing, receiving or paying out any notes of a less denomination than five dollars; to prohibit other corporations, as well as individuals, from issuing paper of any kind for circulation and to get rid of the Rail Road orders, which the people are daily receiving in exchange for the property and labour.

These orders are fast reaching the point of depression at which they will cease to be a currency: and it has been proposed to raise their value by throwing upon the banks the responsibility of redeeming them. It is well to consider whether the banks have a right to adopt the issues of the Rail Road Company, and what would be the effect of such an arrangement on the general currency of the State. They were authorized, by an act of the last Session to receive and pay out these orders, which they could not previously do without violating the laws. But they were not authorized to adopt them as their own currency, or to become answerable for their redemption, or to make good the losses which might be sustained by their depreciation. If they have a right to use their funds in this manner for the purpose of raising the value of the Rail Road orders, they have equal authority to enter into an arrangement with the City of Philadelphia for redeeming the notes of the United States Banks.

But the banks could not assume the payment of the Rail Road