

financial condition, that the specie basis of all banks of issue within the state, should be greatly enlarged and in accepting this as a first proposition towards a radical reform it will suggest the propriety of revision and reconstruction of our banking system. I think it will be found entirely consistent with the necessities of the times and the experience of the people that banks of issue should have an independent existence under the most rigid legislation, and the constant scrutiny of official authority, and that other departments of the business of banking should be conducted under general laws, conferring no privileges of issue. I merely make the suggestion; the subject is one, which demands patient and intelligent consideration, and addresses itself to the stern patriotism of the representatives of the people.

In an appropriate connection with this subject, I beg leave to express my cordial approval of the suggestion contained in the recent report of the present Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, that each of the States inaugurate a policy in conformity with that of the United States, for the collection of its entire revenue in coin. The advantages which would certainly flow from such a practice, would be equally enjoyed by the Government, and the people. It would tend to keep the specie in the country, in circulation, and out of the iron custody of the banks. It would exert a most salutary influence over those institutions, and prepare the way for the gradual and early exclusion of bank paper of the minor denominations from circulation. In short, it would rapidly establish a specie currency and diffuse in all the avenues of trade and commerce, a most healthy and invigorating influence.

I am deeply impressed with the value and importance of this advice, and cherish the hope that you will appreciate the honor of placing Maryland at as early a day as practicable, in the condition it proposes.

Education - Common Schools.

Whatever progress has been hitherto made in our own or sister States, and how much sooner we may felicitate ourselves upon our educational policy, still greater attainments are within our reach, and we shall be recreant to our first and highest obligations to the future, if we fail to employ the best means that our judgment and experience suggest for the promotion of public education. I think you will concur with me in the opinion, that whatever may have been the social necessity in relation to this subject at any time heretofore, it cannot be left over, when the signs of the times are so fearfully significant of the utter destitution of the mental and moral training which characterize so large a portion of our youth at the present day.

It is with confidence therefore that