

be completed, and the State of Maryland partially put in possession of those means nature has bestowed, of increasing her trade and intercourse, and thereby fostering her resources, her strength, and her wealth. In the investigation of the subject some considerations which are deemed highly important have presented themselves; and on the execution of that part of the resolution calling for any suggestions that might be likely to promote the desirable improvements, the executive have thought it consistent with its spirit, to offer a view of the subject with its bearings on the improvement and welfare of the State. These remarks will accompany the formal communications of the presidents of the road companies.

Under the act imposing a tax on all banks in the State of Maryland not chartered by the Legislature, an application has been made to the Treasurer, and complied with, for stamp paper for an office of Pay and Receipt established at Frederick by the Westminster Bank. The penalties of the law applying equally to the Branch of the Bank of the United States, established in Baltimore, a demand was early made on that bank. It was found however that considerable difficulty would be experienced in proving the particular offences, so as to recover the penalty attached; especially as from the nature of that institution the notes of a branch in any other state, could be and were used in payment. The bank, however having early determined to stand a suit, negotiations were entered into, and used every possible device to bring the question of constitutional right before the legal tribunals of the country, to which their right to resort was unquestionable, and to waive at once all legal delays, and carry it to the highest appellate jurisdiction, the Supreme Court of the United States, an amicable arrangement was entered into. A suit being brought in Baltimore county court, judgment was entered for the state, and an appeal taken to the Court of Appeals for the Western Shore, which met in June last, upon a case stated, so as to rest the question upon the constitutionality of the act. A decision in favour of the state was there had by consent, and the appeal carried up to the Supreme Court of the United States. In the mean time, the president of the bank, has lodged in the Council Chamber, a memorandum, by which, in the event of the suits being determined in favour of the state, the penalty is not to be exacted, but the bank is bound to pay into the State Treasury, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, specified in the act, for the year commencing on the first day of May last, the day on which the act went into operation; and the same sum annually, as long as the act continues, or the bank chooses that alternative. In the event of the suits being determined against the state, no costs are to be exacted, and no further steps taken, under the said act, against the bank.

The appropriation, by the United States, of the payment of the money advanced by the State of Maryland for the payment of troops and other expenses brought on the state, by the late war, was communicated to the Legislature previous to their adjournment last winter.