

During the past summer and autumn, our fellow-citizens have had abundant reason to be thankful to an over-ruling Providence, for the health which has pervaded all parts of our State, the prosperity which has marked every branch of industry, and the consequent peace and contentment exhibited in all the conditions of life. The resumption of specie payments by the Banks on the 13th of August last, has unquestionably contributed largely to the general prosperity. The conduct of those institutions, through the gloomy and perilous period of the suspension, their prompt and unceasing efforts to relieve, to the extent of their abilities, the embarrassments of the community, and to protect the various interests committed to their charge, and their evident anxiety to resume the payment of their obligations in the precious coins, so soon as it could be done consistently with higher considerations, entitle them to the respect and confidence of the Legislature, and of every class of our people.

As I consider the vigorous prosecution, and early completion, of the works of Internal Improvement, of vital importance to the State, I cannot withhold the expression of the continued and deep solicitude I feel upon this subject. The spirit of Internal Improvement, is the characteristic of the age, it pervades this country; it is rife in Great Britain; it is rapidly extending over the continent of Europe, and it has recently accomplished the gigantic feat of subjecting the ocean that divides the old world from the new, to the mastery of steam. Its progress is everywhere marked by the development of national resources, and the multiplication of the avenues of individual wealth and prosperity. Situated, geographically, as Maryland is, there is perhaps no State in the Union, more dependent upon Internal Improvement, nor one that offers greater advantages for the prosecution of the system. The territory of the State, lying for a long distance on both sides of the Chesapeake Bay, encloses its head waters, and, gradually narrowing, extends far westwardly along the Potomac to the northern fountain of that river, where it again widens, so as to embrace one of the richest mineral districts of the United States. The chief city of Maryland, at the western extremity of the Chesapeake, is thus brought nearer to the region, watered by the Mississippi, and its tributaries, than any other of the cities on the Atlantic sea board, and the great high way to the West, opened by the Potomac through the mountains, not only finds its appropriate terminus at Baltimore, but passes through, and throws open to capital, industry and skill, the inexhaustible treasures of coal and iron, which, but for such avenue to market, would be comparatively inaccessible and valueless. Two of the principal works in which the State is interested, will not only answer the most important purpose of connecting the emporium of the State with the vast country beyond the Alleghanies in the closest bonds of commercial intercourse, but at the same time, they will develop to their utmost extent, resources, whose value to the