

gratuitously, and the bank thinks when their paper is as good as others, it ought to be taken.

That the Farmers and Mechanics' Bank of Frederick County, in discounting, gives no preference to any individual, *other than what is most promotive of the interests of the bank and the public good*. As for instance, it gives a preference to the drafts on millers at 30, 60 or 90 days, on their consignees at Baltimore, over negotiable notes payable at the counter; as by this operation the notes of the bank are distributed through the country, in the purchase of the produce of the farmers, and the drafts at maturity furnish a fund at Baltimore for the redemption of the paper of said bank in that city.

That the Washington County Bank, in discounting, gives no preference to individuals. The solvency and punctuality of the applicants are the only considerations of granting loans.

The committee, in order to effect as much brevity as possible in their report, and at the same time place the House in possession of the remaining information called for by the order, have thought it most expedient to give the general usage of the banks in their business transactions. By doing so, without delaying to state whether each and every bank, particularly, has issued post notes, &c., it will be ascertained in what case any bank has pursued the usages mentioned in the order.

The Bank of Baltimore issued post notes previous to the year 1800—none since—of which there are now outstanding \$1,775. But in the language of the bank, "it has an issue which is properly post notes, but they are payable at two days date, have matured, and are used in the ordinary circulation, and are reported to the Treasurer as a part of the circulation of the bank." It has received and paid out notes under the denomination of five dollars of the Frederick County Bank, the Patapsco Bank, and the Westminster Bank. Its stock is 3 1-3 cents below par. Its real estate is worth \$36,341 18.

The Mechanics' Bank, (in the language of the bank) prior to March 1827, did issue notes, which were entered in the books of the bank as post notes. These notes were, however, payable on demand, and none on a future day. The said bank has in several instances received as collateral security the notes of other banks at a depreciation, the said notes to be redeemed by the parties leaving them. In one instance to close a transaction the said bank took at a discount a lot of Virginia bank notes, which had been left as collateral security, which the bank afterwards sold to a broker. It has in several instances let individuals, as well as brokers have coin in small amounts for bank notes, returnable as soon as it could be procured, and previous to the suspension, *it let a broker late in the day have coin in considerable amount, to remit by the cars to New York, which was returned the next day.* In neither of the cases did the bank derive any profit whatever.—It has frequently sold at a premium merchantable coin, viz: Spanish, French, Mexican, German, &c. The value of its stock is,