

meanour, or appear to have more honourable sentiments. So far as their praises, are not made to infringe upon the just position of the new board, I am disposed to pass them without comment; but I am not prepared to certify that "*To the President and Directors, every praise is due, for bringing into such complete regularity, and efficiency, every department under their control, as well as for the promptitude, energy, and ability, with which they have performed their own more especial functions, with the arrangements that have been made, and thus far executed, every thing is in the best possible train.*" I could not justify myself to the State of Maryland, after the investigation, and developments, made in the legislature, during the last session, if I were to make such a report. A few extracts from the report of the committee on internal improvements, will show how far such an opinion comports with the views of that committee, after a laborious, and searching investigation, into the affairs of the company. With regard to the proceedings, in reference to the 6 per cent. bonds of the State, they say, "The committee are unable to account for the conduct of the company, in relation to these very bonds. In the first place, they gave more for them, than they would have brought in the market, at the time they purchased them. In the second, they proceeded to hypothecate them at once, on terms so disadvantageous, as rendered their retention of them utterly impossible. Did they intend to procure the means to carry on the work at any sacrifice? and did they adopt the hypothecation process, as one most likely to conceal their intention? To have sold the bonds, at once, much as they wanted money, would have been too palpable. They hypothecated them, however, upon terms, which may bring them into market; and thus, what was the product of design, may seem to be the result of accident." Again, the committee of the legislature say, "The hypothecation in this country is represented by the company, as having been made at par, whilst the fact of their having received a part, if not the whole amount, in Virginia paper, is concealed in the general statement of the company. To illustrate this matter, we will suppose a loan to have been effected in the Bank of North America, for \$100, on a pledge of that amount of state bonds, if the amount received by them was in Virginia paper, 5 per cent. below par, the hypothecation was, unquestionably, not made as represented." And again, they say, "Twice already has the state contributed, what the company has assured her, would be amply sufficient to complete the work. Twice has this money, or a part of it, been applied not to the object for which it was asked and obtained; but to relieve the company from embarrassments, which they had improvidently incurred, or devoted to objects as unauthorized as they were unwarranted." This report was made as late as the 8th of March, 1839, and the paragraphs are quoted, not for the purpose of imputing any unworthy motives to the old board, but to do justice to the new. These loans, and these hypothecations, have been a fruitful source of embar-