

The sum claimed by Mr. Merrick is not a gratuity asked of the board, but a recompense for professional services, expenses, and sacrifices, during a long absence from his family and injury to his practice—and it is highly probable after taking these facts into view, that but a moderate pecuniary compensation will be realized by Mr. Merrick.

His powerful mind, and superior judgment was often called in action during the pendency of the measure, in the preparation of reports, bills, &c. And in appeals to the reason and judgment of members, and to that pride of independence, which would prompt the discharge of duties demanded at their hands by the best interests of the State, regardless of personal or popular considerations. An act was at length passed by the legislature and accepted by the company, and although the provisions were in some respects not so favorable as could have been desired, yet it was the best under all circumstances which could be obtained. Mr. Merrick in his statement to you declares, that he does not believe the measure could have succeeded in any other form.

Mr. Merrick further assures you, that he had received an offer from another company to attend to its business with a contingent fee depending of \$2000, and that it was not until repeated solicitations by that company and by Mr. McCulloh, that he at length consented to leave his family and practice, and devote his services and time to the interests of these great works. For further detail as to those services, we refer to the papers submitted to the committee. Every upright man would view with abhorrence every attempt to influence a legislative body by unworthy means, or the dishonorable application of money, as degrading to the one party as it would be insulting to the other.

But when great interests are dependent on measures involving questions of expediency and policy, requiring the fullest and ablest exposition of facts, fair deductions, and accurate calculations, in order to carry conviction to the judgment and direct the action of members, has it ever been considered disreputable or improper that such interests should be represented by counsel, and that counsel be compensated?

Wherever in any State, or the General Government, such interests exist, they have been thus protected and sustained, not by any corrupting influence, but by fair and honorable appeals to the good sense and better feelings of men—and by imparting useful information which neither their leisure or pursuits enable them to acquire.

That Mr. Merrick has rendered important services in obtaining the two million loan, attended with personal and professional sacrifices to himself, we consider undeniable, nor do we consider it generous, or just that those services should go unrequited, altho' the board is not pledged by any official act to the recognition of this claim, yet we conceive that it is alike due to the character of the company, to the friendly and disinterested motives of Mr. McCulloh, and to the valuable services of Mr. Merrick, that his