

AK

THIRTEEN IMPORTANT PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

BALTIMORE AND SUSQUEHANNA RAIL ROAD.

Hon. WM. T. WOOTTEN,
Chairman Committee of Internal Improvement,
House of Delegates of Maryland.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following replies to the questions proposed this morning by the committee, viz :

1. Under what authority did the Susquehanna Rail Road Company loan any portion of its funds to the York and Wrightsville Rail Road Company?

There was no express power given in the charter of the company to make the above loans. In making them, however, the company believed themselves justified by the whole spirit of their charter, and the obvious design of the General Assembly, to secure an uninterrupted communication with the Susquehanna river. The charter originally contemplated the construction of a rail road from Baltimore to some suitable point or points on that river, and the refusal of Pennsylvania to confirm that charter, alone prevented the company from undertaking the whole line of such a work. When the latter State at last authorised the extension of a road from the Maryland line so far within her limits as the borough of York, the legislature of Maryland gave to the company express authority to appropriate their funds to the construction of the York and Maryland Line Rail Road. No charter for the York and Wrightsville Rail road was at that time in existence. Had it been, this company could not doubt that the same power would have been expressly granted them in regard to that road. The company therefore made the loans, commencing in the fall of 1836, and at the following session of the legislature, laid before that body a statement of their proceedings, and of the views by which they had been governed. No direct action was taken by the legislature on the question, but as no disapprobation was expressed, the passage at the same session of the act of December, 1836, ch. 236, authorising a further loan of \$600,000 from the city of Baltimore to the company was regarded as sanctioning the views and proceedings of the latter.

2. What was the amount in the aggregate of the loans so made? The aggregate amount, exclusive of interest, was one hundred