

RC

THREE IMPORTANT PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAIL ROAD.

Answers to sundry interrogatories numbered from 1 to 9, propounded to P. E. Thomas, of the city of Baltimore, by a committee of the Maryland Legislature, 25th February, 1839. The respondent having first duly affirmed, answers as follows, viz:

Answer to the first interrogatory. I was authorised by the directors of the Baltimore and Ohio rail road company to engage such counsel as I might deem requisite to assist the company in obtaining a subscription on the part of the State of Maryland to its stock to the amount of \$3,000,000. I am under the impression that the \$8,000,000 act, afterwards brought forward and adopted by the Legislature, had not at that time been suggested, nor do I know that this measure was then contemplated.

In furtherance of our object, I called upon James W. McCulloh and proposed to engage him as principal counsel.

Answer to the second interrogatory. When I had stated to James W. McCulloh my wishes, he promptly expressed a willingness to afford me all the aid he properly could, but said he apprehended his position precluded him from accepting compensation for the part he might take in this matter, yet he felt a deep interest in the success of our undertaking, and was disposed to do all he could towards assisting us in obtaining the means for its completion.

After some further conversation he remarked, that he thought the services of Joseph I. Merrick ought to be secured, and that he would endeavor to engage him for us. He further added, that perhaps it might, in the progress of the business, be found advisable also to engage additional counsel.

I then stated to him that I would be willing, on behalf of the company, to agree to give \$5000 to counsel who would obtain a subscription for us to the amount of \$3,000,000, which sum I hoped, in addition to other available and expected resources, would enable us to complete our work. Upon this he remarked, that the compensation proposed would not be sufficient; and after referring to the magnitude and importance of the object—the many difficulties to be overcome—the strong prejudices of several influential members—the want of confidence in others, and the absolute necessity, if the company desired to ensure success, that they should call to their aid all the power that could be brought to sustain the