

to the amount of three millions of dollars, which sum the city of Baltimore had subscribed for the construction of that part of the road. But as the stock could not be sold without considerable loss, the plan was devised of making it the basis of a paper currency; which, it was said, would afford important advantages to the public, as well as the most undoubted security to the holders. This scheme has enabled the Rail Road Company to dispose of city stock, to the amount of one million five hundred thousand dollars, at its par value; and to transfer to the holders of their certificates the risk and loss, which they were not willing to encounter themselves, of selling it in the market.

The city of Baltimore and the Rail Road Company have had all the benefit of the stock orders; the first, in saving the interest on an equal amount of stock; and the last, in obtaining the means of prosecuting their work. On the other hand, the banks were embarrassed by the measures that relieved the Rail Road Company. In 1839, they advanced five hundred thousand dollars on account of the city subscription, because they were informed, that, without a loan to that amount, the commencement of the road, beyond Harper's Ferry, would be postponed; they have since had a large portion of their own paper displaced and their profits diminished, by the circulation of the Rail Road orders; and now they are expected to repair the loss, which the depreciation of these orders has occasioned to the public.

The banks are not in a condition to perform any act of supererogation. They ought to be compelled, promptly and unconditionally, to redeem their own paper, meet their own liabilities, and comply with all the conditions of their charters; but it would seem to be unreasonable and unjust to make them answerable for the acts of other corporations, or for the redemption of any other paper than their own.

A further modification of the tariff, with a view to the protection of particular interests, has been made the subject of legislative resolutions in several of the States; and has been recently pressed upon public attention with so much earnestness, that I have been induced to submit a few observations, respecting the probable effect of such a policy upon the interests of the agricultural States.

The advocates of this policy complain of the heavy burdens, imposed by other nations on our flour, grain and tobacco; and insist, as a proper measure of retaliation, that high duties should be laid upon such foreign articles as come in competition with our domestic manufactures. It is thus proposed to compensate the agricultural States, for the restrictions imposed on the sale and consumption of their produce, by subjecting them to new burdens at home for the benefit of other sections of the Union. It can hardly be expected that increased duties at home will cause a reduction of duties in other countries; and it is well to consider the value of our present markets, before we incur the risk of making