

ANSWERS OF THE BANKS.

UNION BANK OF MARYLAND,
January 10th, 1842.

B. C. PRESSTMAN, Esq.

Chairman of the Committee on Currency:

Sir,—In reply to your communication of the 5th instant, enclosing a copy of an order of the House of Delegates of Maryland, directing your committee to enquire of each of the Banks of this State “if they are ready for resumption of specie payments, and if not, to assign their reasons therefor by the 15th instant.”

I am desired by the board of directors of the Union Bank of Maryland to say, that this Bank has conducted its business for the last year strictly with a view to an early resumption of specie payments, and that they consider the Bank to be now, without reference to other interests, in a condition to resume. At the same time, they cannot but express an opinion that it would be inexpedient to do so, without the co-operation of the Virginia and Pennsylvania Banks, or at least those of Virginia. They do not see that the interests of any part of the State of Maryland would be promoted by a resumption on the part of her Banks, during the suspension of the Banks of these neighboring States; but on the contrary, they fear that the community would suffer much distress. It seems evident to them, that our currency, instead of being improved, would be injured by such a resumption; as our Banks could not furnish a sufficient amount for the ordinary operations of the community, and the vacuum would be filled therefore with a currency more depreciated than that which at present exists, with an increased difficulty of obtaining even that, owing to the necessary restrictive measures which the Banks would be compelled to adopt; whilst the rate of exchanges between our State and those where the Banks continued suspended, would increase so much against the latter, that all commercial intercourse would be highly embarrassed, and our merchants being unable to collect their debts without ruinous loss, if at all, the evil consequences could not fail to be felt throughout all the interests of our State.

That a resumption would be highly advantageous to our Banks, whenever those of other States can unite with them, has been strongly felt in the reduced profits of banking during the suspen-