

of responsibility with that of the cashier of a respectable bank, and, I think, admitted that the labour was more onerous. I am informed that the salaries of the cashiers of banks are as follows, viz: of the Merchants' Bank \$4,000 per annum, of the Bank of Baltimore \$3,000 and a house, of the Farmers and Planters' \$2,500 and a house, of the Commercial and Farmers' \$2,000 and a house, and of the Patapsco Bank, with a capital of only \$150,000, \$2,000 and a house.

Respectfully submitting the case to you, I am, &c.

J. J. ATKINSON, *Secretary.*

ENGINEER'S OFFICE, BALT. AND OHIO RAIL ROAD,
Baltimore, May 3rd, 1842.

TO SAMUEL I. DONALDSON, ESQ.

Chairman Special Committee on Retrenchment.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the resolution passed yesterday by the committee, and requesting me to “report what scale of reductions in wages of the Engineer department can be adopted with safety to the interests of the company.”

In replying to this inquiry I feel myself embarrassed for the want of such information as is necessary to make the answer a satisfactory one; the question being substantially this—“What are the lowest rates of pay at which the several assistants of the engineer department would be willing to remain in their places, and render their services energetically and faithfully to the company?”

Want of time to communicate with them disables me from speaking with any positiveness on this head, and I trust that the committee will appreciate this reason for my failing to give a specific answer to their inquiry at this time.

The necessity of consulting these officers, manifestly grows out of the fact, that they differ entirely in their relations to the work, from those other persons (mechanics, &c.) connected with it, whose places, if vacated, may be supplied at any time. It is possible that, rather than leave the service in the present season of difficulty in procuring employment elsewhere, the assistants, or some of them, perhaps a majority of them, would consent to some reduction of pay; but although my own influence should be exerted to retain them in the service under that new condition, I am not without my fears that the larger portion of them, especially in the higher grades, would prefer retiring to remaining at smaller compensation than they now receive.