If this conclusion be wrong, why are not each and all of the offending Cities embraced within the prohibitory Act referred to? & why was there not a Law passed at the time to meet the case? And as this has not been done either at the session mentioned & at the subsequent Sessions of the Legislature, there can be no question but that the adoption of like measures of relief under like circumstances would receive their concurrence. The Committee believe that by the passage of this Ordinance and the consequent issue of the scrip, the issue and circulation of small notes by individuals will be prevented as the amount of scrip to be issued under the Ordinance referred will in all probability, meet the demands necessary for every useful purpose of trade. The security and certainty of its final redemption by this Corporation entitles it to, and it will no doubt receive, the entire confidence of the public. The Committee do not think it within the scope of its duties to enter into a detail of the various causes which might be assigned as calculated, in these operations, to produce the state of things at present existing, not only in this City and Country, but apparently throughout Europe. Subjects of so high an order are left for the chambers of Legislation, to which by right they belong, the members of which, it is to be hoped, will be found to possess wisdom, discretion and firmness equal to the great emergency of the questions on which they will be necessarily called to act. The Committee therefore respectfully recommend the adoption of the accompanying Ordinance.

Godfrey Meyer } Committee of the
Charles M. Keyser } First Branch
Samuel Jones Jr. } Committee of the
Samuel Harden } Second Branch

Mr. Seidenstricker from the same Committee submitted the following counter report, which was also read the first time.

The undersigned a minority of the Committee of Ways & Means, having had under consideration so much of the Mayor's message as relates to the suspension of specie payments by the Banks of this City, representing that some action on the part of the Council will be necessary for the purpose of mitigating, as far as may be practicable, the inconvenience which will thereby be caused to this community, respectfully report, that they know of no legal measure that can possibly be resorted to by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore which would have this most

desirable

desirable tendency.

In the course of the discussion in the First Branch of the City Council at its Session on Friday 11th inst., the only remedies proposed were those of issuing small notes & certificates and of reissuing some Fourteen thousand dollars of the redeemed issues of the old issue, to the several Banks of the City that would accept of them. We are satisfied that we may be travelling somewhat from our proper field, when we undertake to examine these two propositions, but inasmuch as the message was referred to your Committee for their deliberations and in the course of the discussion on its reference &c. these measures were favorably spoken of, we may be excused for alluding to the debate, especially when the majority of the Committee have agreed to report one of the measures referred to.

For the purpose of understanding the objects and powers of the Corporation of Baltimore, it will be proper to turn to the charter of the City. The main objects for the granting of a Charter to the "Inhabitants of Baltimore Town" are gathered from the declaration affixed to Act of Assembly, November 1796 entitled "an Act to erect Baltimore Town in Baltimore County, into a City, and to incorporate the Inhabitants thereof."

"Whereas, it is found by experience, that the good order, health, peace and safety of large Towns and Cities, cannot be preserved, nor the evils and accidents to which they are subject, avoided & remedied, without an internal power competent a police and regulation fitted to their particular wants and exigencies" Now it is very clear, that the sole design of the Legislature was to empower the "Inhabitants of Baltimore Town" to exercise a police authority and to regulate among themselves such matters & things as would tend to the preservation of their "health, peace and safety" and protect them from the dangers which grow out of the density of their population and require a system of Laws that will operate immediately against such grievances as may occur, and preserve the community from the "evils and accidents" to which they may be exposed.

The evils under which the people of Baltimore are expected to labour, and against which we are asked to invent remedies for their mitigation, were never contemplated by the Legislature to be put under the jurisdiction of the City of Baltimore, or they would have granted us sufficient authority to redress them.

The suspension of specie payments by our banks is certainly

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