

prohibition to pay any certificates that may be granted to any of the directors, officers, or stockholders of the institution, is general, and indiscriminate, whether such certificates be given for stock, or for the bills or notes such persons may happen to hold: which is not only very inequitable in itself, but manifestly gives the advantage to those speculators in the notes of the bank, who were not directors, and consequently is greatly in favour of those of the commissioners who have so speculated, as before mentioned, and who will no doubt take care to pass their own certificates with all celerity, seeing they are to bear interest from the day of their date.

I now come to those inquisitorial and unconstitutional clauses which give to the commissioners, *and their clerk*, power to drag before their tribunal all persons connected with the bank, that is as directors, or officers, to examine them on oath, and if they are not satisfied with their answers, to deprive them of their liberty, or hold them to bail: "I can do no better in this place than again quote the words of "a disinterested spectator."

"This tragico-farical inquisition," says he, "while it violates the great principle of common law, that no man shall be compelled to criminate himself, is, under existing circumstances, as ridiculous as it is irritating and ignominious. The president, cashier, teller, agent, and solicitor of the bank, have already been examined; and given their respective statements of the facts within their knowledge before a committee of the house of assembly. To suppose that a repetition of their examination before the inquisitors, armed with all their errors, will produce any essential addition or variance of information, would betray a deplorable ignorance of human nature." And here it ought to be remembered that the report of the committee, did, from the very answers of those individuals, confine all suspicion of misconduct to the president, cashier, and teller; and also, that, "as to the other directors whose names are gibbeted in this act, it is now understood, though it may not be known to those who, in future times, shall see these names recorded in the public statutes of the province, as of suspected persons, *unworthy to be trusted with the disposal of their own property, without the gracious permission of the commissioners*; yet it is at present well known here, that these directors have not been in situations to be enabled to give any material information personally respecting the alledged "abstraction" of the funds of the bank, the principal subject of investigation. Under such circumstances, the inquisition must be a disgusting farce."

(To be continued)

Intending to have made some remarks on the returns made, as published in the Quebec Gazette, of the population of Lower