

in trading with the West. The Convention looked to the prosperity of Baltimore as the safety of the State. To use the stronger language of the second resolution, it was assed ed, that, if Baltimore were destroyed, "the State would be reduced to poverty, insignificance, and ruin." And it was supposed that, in a brief period, the cost, if completed, would prove a source of immense revenue to the State.

The result was an appropriation, in 1827, of \$262,500 to the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, and in 1838 the appropriations to this work amounted to upwards of seven millions. Now, although it is perfectly true that its projectors supposed that the city of Baltimore would become one of the eastern termini of the canal, it is equally certain that without the canal from the Potomac to the Patapsco, the work could not add in any sense to the commercial prosperity of Baltimore. Because its only effect would be, to build up a large rival city in the District, and to attract to it products which otherwise would find their way to our own city, either by the ordinary communications, or by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. It may be questioned whether the cross canal would have materially obviated this result. But all events the experiment was never tried; and the Maryland canal, which was held out to the city of Baltimore, as an inducement to her cheerful acquiescence in the district scheme, has never been constructed, although the Legislature was at the pains, in 1827, to discover that it was practicable.

It is true that in 1836, the Legislature discovered that the estimates were defective, upon which the appropriations to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal had been made, and that the appropriations then asked for were necessary to save the State from irretrievable loss. But any inquirer into the legislation of the State, must be satisfied that one-half of the gross debt, then created, was not contracted for the advantage of Baltimore. When the whole system was undertaken, Baltimore was not regarded otherwise than as its wealth and enterprise subserved the general good, and we are no more grateful than is the proprietor of a commodious warehouse, to those who use it for purposes of sale or deposit. The benefit is on both sides.

So too when other appropriations of the State are considered. The subscriptions to the Susquehanna and Tide Water Canal Company, and to the Eastern Shore Railroad Company, amount to near a million and a quarter; yet in these the interest of Baltimore city, was only secondarily considered. Without recurring, as yet, to the report of committee which recommended these loans in 1836, it may be asserted that if the State had confined her efforts to these works, in which the city of Baltimore is confessedly interested, both from position and from the use of its own resources in their construction, there would have been no reason to regret the encouragement extended to works of internal improvement. The affairs of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company demonstrate this fact.

But the whole argument upon the gratitude and ingratitude of Baltimore is put conclusively

at rest by the report of the committee in 1836, in the House of Delegates. It is evident, from that report, that those concerned in the internal improvement system, looked to its perfection, as the means of realising a revenue to the State, which would permanently free all sections from taxation. In this view the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, was no more a part of their ultimate design, than was the extension of the system through the counties of the Eastern Shore, or to Maumee bay, Washington city, Chicago, or to Belfast in Maine, and to the St Lawrence at Quebec, all of which were spoken of as parts of a common system.

In conclusion, however, I may truly say, that while I deprecate any attempt to place upon the city of Baltimore, the entire responsibility of our public debt, I frankly admit that she had her full share in its creation—and that the enthusiasm of her citizens contributed largely to arouse that spirit of enterprise which in 1836 manifested itself so strongly in our Legislature. Nor have I intended, in any allusion to her wealth and numbers, and to her insignificant power in the State, to leave the impression that it has been *wantonly* injured or oppressed. On the contrary, it is my firm conviction, that in general, the prosperity of Baltimore is a matter of pride to the people of the whole State, and I believe that, for the past fifty years, there has been a generous desire to advance its interests. But it cannot be denied that all increase of its *political* power has been resisted; and that it has been held in a state of tutelage, offensive to its people. Our growth, and large interest in the community, entitle us to a fair share of authority in the management of our own concerns. And we cannot forget that, according to the usage of republican States, we should be allowed to exercise a fair portion of authority over what belongs to ourselves. Cities have their minorities as well as men; and, in their youth, it is proper to entrust their interests to the community which gave them being. But that which is kindness at one session, is oppression at another; and the man who has reason and physical power sufficient to understand his own wants and protect himself, will not submit with much willingness to the restraints of boyhood—or quietly see his estate parceled out and levied on without his consent, by his elder brethren, according to their notions of the wants and requirements of the whole family.

Sooner or later, it must be conceded. And although the hard necessities of our position may compel us to leave this place with our full and reasonable desire for political power ungratified, yet that purpose one day will be accomplished. If you refuse to the populous sections any increase of strength, you will have done much to weaken the force of those bonds which link the several parts of this commonwealth together. And if you mete out to us a share in the government beneath our just claim, be assured, that you but invite us to the renewal of an undetermined contest—for a compromise, it will not be. In the struggle that shall ensue, we may fail many time—but each effort will renew our strength