

stitution of the United States, and to be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and support the Constitution and Laws thereof, and that we will to the best of our skill and judgment, diligently, and faithfully, without partiality, or prejudice, execute the office of Senator, according to the Constitution and Laws of this State.

We would respectfully submit, therefore, to the consideration of the Senate, whether we can reject the bill, entitled, "An Act for the compensation of loyal citizens of Maryland, whose property has been taken, damaged, or destroyed by the armies of the United States or of the so-called Confederate States," without the imputation, at least, if not the direct crime of perjury. Let us not be misunderstood.

We are fully aware of a clause in the Constitution of the State which prohibits the Legislature from making any appropriation for any work of Internal Improvement, or in aid of any individual association, or corporation, or in any enterprise which shall involve the faith, or credit of the State; but the same clause, expressly says, that the *Legislature may contract debts to any amount that may be necessary for the defence of the State.*

Now we respectfully submit whether here is not an express grant, to do even more than the bill itself contemplates, viz: *ot contract debts to any amount, for the defence of the State;* whilst we propose merely to ask a loan, which will be merely a temporary debt, until it is assumed by the General Government.

Is it true that money is the sinew of war? Is it true that security for the private property of the citizen, is necessary for the defence of the State? Can there be any defence of the State, where there is no security for private property, where all the rights of property are utterly ignored, stricken down, and trampled under foot whether in times of peace or war?

How are taxes to be raised for the defence of the State?—How are armies to be raised, clad, fed, or paid? How are navies to be built? How are arms to be purchased, or ordnance and military stores to be furnished? Why, the thing is impossible, where the rights of property, are not held sacred, and firmly secured?

For what purpose does the loyal citizen pay taxes? For what purpose do we make laws, erect governments, provide courts of justice, and trials by jury, if it be not to secure, and maintain the rights of property, from violation, either in time of war or peace?