

rant. It will readily occur to you, Sir, that such small payments as have been heretofore made, could only have been acceptable in the real necessity, to which the finances of the state had been reduced by the very expenditure claimed to be repaid, and that they could not have been turned to much account for any great objects of public utility. I feel it my duty therefore, now earnestly to ask for such a payment as I have suggested, not only to supply the mere exigencies of the government, but to enable the legislature, in some degree, to provide for the advancement of important state concerns; and, as their session will commence on the first Monday of December; a remittance previous to that day will be highly acceptable.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient humble servant;

JOHN LEEDS KEER.

The honourable J. C. Calhoun, Secretary at War.

EASTON, November 24, 1819.

SIR—In the first week of October I made a visit to Washington, for the purpose of seeing the progress made by the officers of the war department in their examination of the vouchers of the militia claims, and to press for such further payment as the admitted items would warrant. I was pleased to find that considerable progress had been made in this tedious detail, and I felt confident to ask an immediate payment of a more important sum of money than those heretofore advanced; but the secretary of war was absent and I could not then attain my object. I was informed that I should soon receive a view of the objections of the department to our mode of stating some of the expenses claimed to be reimbursed, and more especially those for supplies; but I have not yet received it. The vouchers to the account for supplies seemed to be considered generally sufficient, and the principal difficulty, as I had always anticipated, will arise from the manner, in which our contractors and quarter-masters, in the pressing moment of invasion or threatened invasion, were compelled to deliver out supplies, without regard to a precise calculation of rations. When these objections are presented to me, it will be my duty, if possible, to obviate them and to reconcile a deviation from strict military system by arguments drawn from the sudden emergencies, in which the services of our militia were called for.

On the existing state of the account, however I feel perfectly authorized to expect a further advance at this time, of at least \$ 100,000; and as the session of the legislature approaches, I have, this day, written to the secretary of war, and solicited a payment to that amount. I enclose you a copy of that communication, and I hope the treasurer of the western shore will soon receive the proposed remittance.

I have the honour to be, your excellency's obedient servant.

JOHN LEEDS KERR.

His Excellency, Charles Goldsborough, Governor of Maryland.

And whereas, if the above anticipations shall be realised, the public creditors will not receive from the state the sums respectively due to them, an event alike unprecedented and injurious to the public credit. And whereas no legislative means have yet been provided to guard against such emergency; and as the state, during the late war, was compelled to dispose of a part of her capital, amounting to the sum of four hundred and forty-nine thousand eight hundred and thirteen dollars and eighty-one cents, to provide means of defence against the common enemy; And whereas the general government has refunded to the state one hundred and eighty thousand dollars, part thereof, the whole of which sum ought to have been reinvested, so that the capital of the state might have been restored, but the same has been consumed in the current expenses of the state; and if the same improvident system shall be continued, the whole productive capital of the state must be consumed, and a tax on the assessable property of our citizens resorted to: And whereas it appears from the following official communication from the register of the city treasury of Baltimore, that that corporation has received from 1800 until 1817, the sum of near four hundred thousand dollars, from a duty which the said corporation has laid on sales of foreign merchandise at auctions, the proceeds whereof are applied exclusively for the benefit of her own citizens, while the proceeds from the same source of taxation are applied in New-York and Pennsylvania to the general benefit of the whole state.

A statement of auction duties received by the register of Baltimore.

Years.	Auction Duties.	Licenses to Auctioneers.
1800	\$8,722 88	
1801	9,453 47	
1802	7,447 04	
1803	6,560 75	
1804	10,088 02	
1805	12,437 67	
1806	12,438 31	
1807	13,641 04	
1808	10,544 68	
1809	16,032 20	\$3,080
1810	17,605 32	4,050
1811	18,121 77	3,800
1812	38,342 84	4,550
1813	28,401 77	5,100
1814	11,747 53	4,350
1815	44,664 91	2,750
1816	36,331 70	7,450
1817	31,061 31	8,550
	331,649 21	\$43,680
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	\$375,820 21	

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