

*From the Message.*—“But the completion of the canal *and the engagements of the company* will probably require three millions of dollars, in addition to the sums already advanced; and in the present condition of the treasury, it is a subject of serious consideration, whether so large an addition could be made to the public debt, without entirely prostrating the credit of the State. It was made the duty of the Executive, by an act of the last session, to propose on the part of the State, to finish the canal to Cumberland, on condition of receiving a transfer of the stock, held by the General Government in the canal company; and that proposition has been communicated to the President of the United States. If acceded to by Congress, it will be the province of the Legislature to provide means for carrying it into effect.”

I merely informed the Legislature that my duty, under the act referred to, had been discharged, and that if means were to be provided, for carrying the proposal into effect, it would be their province to do it and not mine. The Exposition ascribes to me the impropriety of telling the Legislature that the increase to the public debt *must* be made.

*From the Report.*—“If the canal should stop where it is, under its present expenditure of seven millions, the interest on this sum is to be immediately provided, and, indeed, a tax of two hundred thousand dollars is now recommended by the Governor for this purpose. The city of Baltimore will be required to pay nearly one half of this tax, for how long a period it is impossible to surmise. If the additional three millions necessary to carry the work to Cumberland be added, Baltimore will be looked to for her moiety of the interest on this amount.”

The part of the message which recommends a tax, is in the following words:

“In giving a particular account of the embarrassments into which the State has been drawn by the wild spirit of internal improvement, my object is to call the attention of the Legislature to the necessity of guarding against an increase of existing evils, and of providing, if possible, for the gradual redemption of the public debt. I do not perceive how these objects can be effected, without arresting the further issue and hypothecation of State stock; reducing the public expenditures by a rigid system of economy; and increasing the revenue by a moderate tax on real and personal estate, till it is sufficient to pay the interest, and leave a small surplus to be applied to the principal of the public debt. Two hundred thousand dollars a year, in addition to the present revenue, would probably be sufficient for this purpose, if raised at once, but the longer the taxes are postponed, the heavier they must be at last.”

The report represents that, “if the canal should stop where it is, under its present expenditure of seven millions, the interest on this sum is to be immediately provided, and, indeed, a tax of two hundred thousand dollars is recommended by the Governor for *this purpose.*”