

take advantage of our anxiety, and consequently demand an exorbitant premium at our hands for the great privilege of cancelling our debts?

The majority of the Committee then propose to pay in the shape of premiums, that, which would be paid as interest, should the policy suggested by the Executive, be adopted. The undersigned has not time nor space to pursue this view of the subject, as far as perhaps it would merit. He contents himself with the few observations thus made, particularly as the able reasoning of the Executive himself, in relation thereto, must be fresh in the recollection of every member of the Legislature.

Another argument of the majority of the committee on this branch of the subject, the undersigned will attempt to controvert, and will then dismiss the matter. They argue that public morals and justice require the payment of a debt by the generation which contracts it. "A sound sensible farmer," they argue, "who owed a debt, would consider it the highest obligation of his duty to himself and to his family to discharge it, and thus relieve his estate from an onerous incumbrance. He would consider it unwise to transmit that incumbrance to his heirs. The same principle of common sense which would so wisely determine the conduct of an individual, equally applies to a State." No sensible farmer, it is true, suffers his estate to be trammelled with a heavy debt, on which he pays large sums of interest, when it is in his power without inconvenience and privation, to free it from incumbrance; but he would be considered, by every sensible person, devoid of reason and judgment to deprive himself of all comforts and conveniences during his life, so that those who might come after him, should possess uninterrupted blessings and enjoyments. Before devising his estate to his descendants, does he not act most justly and providently if he puts aside a sum sufficiently large, by its own accumulation, to pay all the debts resting upon it at the time they become due and at the same time, provides for the payment of the interest itself by the erection on it (the estate) of valuable and important improvements, which in the common order of things must prove sources of great profit and revenue? No, to be wise in the opinion of the majority of the committee, he must, with the prospect of large revenues from these works, toil day and night, suffer every hardship, and deprive himself of every comfort, to rid his estate of a debt which from its nature cannot prove a burden.

In concluding these remarks, the undersigned would observe that this policy of refusing to repeal taxes when once imposed, is most monarchical in its character. Monarchies invariably refuse, upon pleas of course sufficiently plausible, to lessen the burdens of their people. Let not their example be followed by the wise Legislators of Maryland.

The majority of the Committee do not attempt to discuss in a special manner, the propriety of the repeal of the stamp act.