

none from our. But this injustice cannot continue, we must not flatter ourselves, if we tax the property of our citizens within their limits, that they will not also tax the property of their citizens within our State. It is not just to those States who only levy taxes on property within their limits. Where is the justice of making our citizens pay taxes for lands and slaves or other property, in another State, when they can derive no consideration in return from our State in the way of protection or other advantage. That property of our citizens is already taxed in the State where it lies. An injustice also is done to our citizens, because by imposing a tax on the property, we lessen the value of the property where it is situated, and thus the same property pays double taxes—taxes to the community in which it lies—taxes to this State where its owner resides. Again such a system will provoke retaliation—nothing ought to be done by us which may have the effect of provoking jealousies between States or a conflict of laws which will tend to destroy the harmony of our State laws. Let each State tax only the property within its own limits over which it has a more direct and complete control, and whose action and protection justify such an exercise of power.

But there was another view in which he desired to place this subject. It would be found impracticable to execute this law. It is wise to abstain from the exercise of a power which it may be difficult or impracticable to carry into effect. How is this property to be rated? Within the State we have a mode of assessing the value of real or personal estate. But how can this be done in Mississippi or Europe? How can you send there and have assessments made of the value of property? With regard to the property which consists of public stocks—although the value of these stocks are more easily known by the market price, how is it possible, or by what process could we proceed, to discover what citizens of Maryland are the true owners of such stocks. The laws and courts of Maryland are called upon to exercise no jurisdiction there, its citizens are not cognizant of what takes place there. And there can be devised no mode of taxing such property, the carrying out of which would but open the door to frauds and perjuries innumerable. A few years ago, a law was enacted to collect an income tax within this State; but it entirely failed. It was only in one or two of the counties, that the effort was made to execute its provisions when it was abandoned, and the act imposing it was shortly afterwards repealed, because of its inquisitorial character, its impertinent scrutiny into the affairs of private life and of other difficulties which it had to encounter, and the frauds and impositions it caused, and above all, and the combined effects of all—its utter failure to produce a sufficient sum. He stated this fact for the purpose of illustrating the probable result of any attempt to impose a tax when there was such difficulties in carrying out its execution as in this now contemplated.

MR. SPENCER moved that the further consideration of the bill of rights be postponed, in order

that it might be printed with the several amendments.

MR. PARKE said he was absent when the first part of the bill of rights was under consideration. If it was now to be printed, he would offer an amendment, (with a view that it might be printed with the other amendments,) upon which he desired to have a vote of the Convention.

Some conversation followed as to the propriety of the postponement, in which Messrs. MARGRAW, SPENCER and JENIFER took part.

The result was, that

MR. RANDALL proceeded with his remarks.

It would be perfectly acceptable to him, whatever course the House might determine on. The question was a very important one, and he hoped it would be examined carefully. He had no doubt the Convention would come to a correct decision upon it. He had endeavored to show that the change was both unjust and impracticable. He would now call attention to its policy. He had no means of knowing the extent of the property lying out of the State, which would be liable to taxation, if the measure was to be carried into effect. He presumed it was now very limited in its extent, although it could not well be ascertained what it was. But if the principle should be carried out in the other States, and surely we are not to expect that we can carry out a law taxing the property of our citizens in other States, without exciting retaliating legislation by other States, in taxing the property of their citizens lying in the State of Maryland. They surely will do so in relation to any property their citizens may have within our limits. It is mere justice to themselves to do this. What position then, will Maryland take if all the other States adopt this principle of retaliation, and say that the property of their citizens lying within the limits of this State, shall be taxed? Then all the citizens of those States having property lying in the State of Maryland, will be liable to double taxation on such property, as if citizens of the State of Maryland, by our laws, and as citizens of the respective States in which they reside, by the laws thereof. We must concede the same propriety and policy to other States which influence ourselves—what will be its operation? The stock of the State of Maryland is relatively larger in proportion to its population and resources perhaps, than any State in the Union—certainly not far from it. Let other States whose citizens hold your State stocks impose another tax upon it in addition to that which you impose, and its value would be essentially impaired; vast quantities of it are held by citizens of other States, in our canals, rail roads, mining companies, and in our city stocks, bank stocks, &c. We have an immense banking capital, and a good deal of it is owned out of the State. We have numerous stocks of companies associated for internal improvements, a great deal of which is held by citizens out of this State. In Allegany, I understand, the stock of many companies is held almost exclusively by persons living out of this State.

If we impose a tax on these capitalists, and they are taxed also by the States in which they