

Mr. Goslin, delivered the following remarks, which

On motion of Mr. Hill,

Were ordered spread upon the Journal.

MR. SPEAKER:

"No knight of old renown deserves a higher place" in the nich of fame, the affections of his people, and the annals of his State, than Thomas G. Pratt. Warriors may conquer territory, soldiers defend our liberties, and sailors protect our commerce on the high seas, but he who saves the honor of his people has done more than they all. Such was the sublime mission of Thomas G. Pratt.

He was a chivalric spirit whose white plume led the fight when the stainless honor of Maryland was attacked, and when many of its best citizens, viewing with hopeless vision, the terrible burden of debt, ever increasing, believed that the only road to relief was that humiliating and dishonest resolve — repudiation.

There was not without specious and deceptive cause for this resolve. This debt, the interest of which the State even found itself unable to pay, was the child of fraud and extravagance. The great donations to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad had amounted to six million dollars, and these added to its debt from other sources, had brought the State's obligations beyond its power to meet them. In addition to extravagant appropriations hundreds of thousands of dollars had been added to the debt, without the fulfillment of the antecedent conditions, on which the State had agreed to make the appropriations, so that, in the year 1844, Maryland found itself with a debt of nearly \$12,000,000, with a State assessment of less than two hundred millions, which required one dollar in every fifteen of the property of the State to pay the principal, while every year the inadequate revenues, allowed the unpaid interest to add to the millions of the principal of the debt. What that debt was to the people of the State then may be judged by the fact that now the State debt, exclusive of all assets, is a little over two millions and a-half, and the assessment in the State, over six hundred millions, requiring but one dollar in