

two hundred and fifty dollars of the property of the people of the State to pay it.

In this appalling condition of their finances, with the exasperation of extravagance and injustice, with ruin threatening the taxpayers of the State, the cry of "Repudiation" was raised all over Maryland, and issue was joined with the people, before the bar of public opinion and at the urns of decision by the electors of the State. There was an almost overwhelming opinion in the State to repudiate the State debt, supported by that inherent principle of self-interest, ever ready to find some loophole to escape its just obligations.

Thomas G. Pratt represented the standard of honesty, obligation, liquidation. With the ardor of a knight, who had lifted his lance to defend a cause for which he was willing to offer his life on the altar of its hopes, with zeal and dauntless courage, he threw himself into the campaign as candidate for Governor on the platform that the honor of the proud and illustrious State of Maryland should be handed down in stainless purity to the generations that were to succeed that generation which struggled and almost fell under its heavy and grievous burdens.

It was a contest unequalled in Maryland in rancor, severity and bitterness. The battle cries and throes, of that memorable campaign, still reverberate in the corridors of Maryland history, and mighty were the issues that hung trembling in the uncertain balance. Its fury, and its consequences attracted the attention of the nation, and called to our commonwealth the great house of Rothschilds whose millions hung on the decision. Pratt was elected Governor by the narrow majority of 541 votes, and with him a Legislature close but sure, pledged to protect the credit of the State.

He began the work he had undertaken, and for which he was elected, immediately upon assuming the office of Governor. In his inaugural address, he impressed upon the General Assembly the duty of meeting the sacred obligations of the State, and followed this abstract advice with the practical counsel of pro-