

ther objection. It is well known that the policy of the framers of the constitution was to limit the revenue to necessary expenditures; and the idea of a source of "perpetual revenue," was particularly obnoxious. Accumulations of wealth in the treasury of the central government, has ever been considered as dangerous to the rights of the individual States. Taxes on imposts are sometimes necessary, even when not absolutely required to support the government. The power of "regulating commerce" with foreign nations, is utterly inefficient, unless this power is connected with it. Negotiation failing—retaliatory imposts or war, are the only effectual means by which the "regulation of foreign commerce" can be effected; taxation, then, in such a case, might be an ample fund for general revenue. What, then, would become of the fund accruing from the sales of the public lands. His Excellency states, that this fund cannot be diverted from its direction, "to paying the debts and expenses of the Union;" cannot be applied to any other use or purpose whatever; distribution among the States is particularly objected to. A surplus, then, consequently accumulates, which, agreeably to the opinions of His Excellency, collated above, cannot be distributed or disposed of. How, then, should we be rid of the acknowledged evil, of a central overflowing treasury? By no other means, your committee conceive, than depletions of the national treasury by defalcations of its officers. It may be said that this argument is an argument to policy, and not to the rights asserted by the States. Admit it; but your committee deem it not so highly of the wisdom of this generation, as to believe that motives and considerations, visible to them, were hidden and obscured from their forefathers. We deny, and challenge the production of authority to show, that prior to the adoption of the federal constitution, the funds arising from the public lands, were ever contemplated as a means of defraying the civil expenses of the general government. All cotemporary history; the terms of the deeds of cession; the declarations and instructions of the States, whose limits did not include the public lands; the treaty of peace with England, ceding to the States, as such, speak one common voice of denial of such application, and assert the claims of the States, as the *cestui que* trusts of the common fund, acquired by common efforts, purchased by common blood and treasure, subject primarily to the liquidation of the common debt, "incurred in acquiring and maintaining that territory, and to no other general purpose or use whatsoever."