

pecuniary in its character, was equally obligatory as an evidence of gratitude for inestimable services rendered by unexampled generosity to patriotism, struggling with difficulties and power. It would be difficult to justify either of these exercises of power, under the general authority of Congress, as a legislative body; and it is only by pressing into service their trustee capacity to administer this public fund, that they can be justified.

Your committee have confined themselves, in this report, to reasoning upon a proper distribution of the territory acquired by conquest and treaty from Great Britain. The subsequent acquisitions they deem equally subject to the operation of the rules they have attempted to apply in this, that they consider the public domain, whether acquired by common conquest, or purchased by common treasure, as being properly the subject of a common application, in just proportions, to such objects of expenditure, within the limits of the several States, as may most nearly tend "to the common use and benefit of all the States."

They also deem that, to rely upon this latter domain as a source of annual revenue for the defraying of the civil expenses of the General Government, would be repugnant to the powers granted to Congress for that specific object, and equally obnoxious to the argument they have used in this report against such an application of the territory acquired by "conquest and treaty from Great Britain."

Your committee have considered it unnecessary to prolong this report by an examination of the accuracy of His Excellency's statement with reference to the sum Maryland would receive if a distribution were directed. The annual income to the State, in such an event, would depend entirely upon the aggregate amount of sales, and as this amount varies, no accurate scale of receipts can be adjusted.

We contend for the right to ask for and share in such distribution, and the assertion of this principle is not dependent upon a large or limited profit.

In conclusion, your committee most respectfully state, that they have carried into the investigation of this question a deep concern for the best interests and the honor of the State of Maryland—both of which, they confidently believe, would be seriously affected by a departure from the high ground which her Convention and several Legislatures have heretofore proudly occupied in relation to the public lands. They have felt too deeply the sacrifice of