

*Resolved*, That this house doth accede to the proposition contained in the said resolution of the General Assembly of the State of Virginia, and will advance to the President of the United States for the purposes mentioned in the said resolution, the sum of seventy-two thousand dollars, payable to his order in three equal yearly payments.

In pursuance of a subsequent notice in the house, a committee was appointed to report to the house the ways and means to raise the sum of seventy-two thousand dollars, to be advanced by the state for erecting the public buildings for the use of the general government.

The committee reported on the thirteenth December the ways and means accordingly, which report was adopted.

It was found by reference to the Treasurer's account for the year seventeen hundred and ninety-three, and seventeen hundred and ninety-four, that the following payments were made to the order of the President of the United States, to wit: twenty-four thousand dollars on the twenty-seventh January seventeen hundred and ninety-two; twelve thousand dollars on the sixth of March seventeen hundred and ninety three; twelve thousand dollars on the ninth July seventeen hundred and ninety three, being two of the payments.

This brief research which was made in great difficulty because of the peculiar and prolix form of stating the accounts at that remote period did not result in a more full ascertainment of the execution of the purpose of the General Assembly, but the provisions having, have been fully made for raising the entire sum as will be seen by reference to the report of the committee, and a compliance to the extent of two-thirds discovered, leaves but little room to doubt that the payments were all made, and that the evidence of the fact exists though not readily to be found.

The enquiry is, shall the state seek to be re-imbursed this sum with interest? there are no collateral circumstances to throw any light on the transaction so far as to enable us to judge whether it was intended as a donation or as a loan; for the present, however, we will regard it in the former view; certainly that which gives the enquiry the more doubtful character, and at first suggested, rather inclines the mind to a negative reply; but a more enlarged consideration of the subject will find circumstances indicating the opposite conclusion.

This is one of the many evidences of the attachment of Maryland to the Union, and of the generosity which has marked her dealings with the general government; the general assembly shortly after this period, in the year seventeen hundred and ninety-one, and in prosecution of a purpose in progress before this time, passed a law by which