

all that part of the Territory of Columbia, lying in this state, was acknowledged to be forever ceded and relinquished to the Congress and Government of the United States. This was beyond doubt an absolute gift without consideration, but well justified by the importance of having a convenient location for the seat of government, standing as it does, in the records of the past, a monument of the liberal feelings of Maryland, we would not that it should be robbed of this character and remain a sale for value received.

It is cited as another instance of the early disposition of Maryland to afford every facility within her power to the advancement of the interest and the relief of the embarrassments of the Union, for the purpose too of showing that to seek a restoration of the other, does not place Maryland in a position obnoxious to the charge of recalling indiscriminately favors heretofore granted; in addition to this it may be suggested that the cases are different in the principle, the one a cession of property which however beneficial to the general government and however a deprivation of the means of the state, is not so clear a loss to her wealth, or if it be the one being recalled, the other will remain an ample proof of our generosity.

The donation of seventy-two thousand dollars of it was a donation made at a period when the affairs of Maryland was in a prosperous state, and when the resources of the general government were not yet developed. The history of the period will sufficiently demonstrate this proposition, though it needs scarcely such a reference, since it may easily be presumed from the simple fact of the passage of the resolution it were not respectful to suppose that in any other case the offer would have been made, or if made, that it would have been accepted; since that time there have been almost countless variations in their relative position of prosperity and adversity, but the vibrations have not been on the extreme, on either side, of a just medium, there has been until now no time at which Maryland was so far depressed as to make it proper to look beyond her ordinary resources for the means of relief, a fact to which perhaps it is to be attributed that the question before us has been undisturbed in the records of the past.

But now Maryland is in deep debt, an emergency exists which though not beyond her hope to remove without dishonor, it must yet be conceded present every possible inducement to the most prudent husbandry of her resources and excite the most intense desire to relieve the source of supply from every unnecessary demand for that source, is taxation of our people, a source always sought with hesitation and only in the last resort, and then no further than