

the absolute necessities of the government require—and how has Maryland so lately prosperous and once the willing dispenser of bounties become embarrassed in finance and involved in deep pecuniary distress, the same feeling has occasioned it which existed in seventeen hundred and ninety, but differing in this respect, that the one was indulged in moderation and resulted in legislation not beyond our means, and was a virtue, the other precipitated into excess and led to expenditures more than could be justified by our condition, and was a vice; but the resemblance does not end with feeling which prompted the action in the several cases, it goes farther, and in this that the consequences in both cases have been the benefitting of the general government, the earlier instances directly, the later indirectly, but on this account the less certainty or the less extensively.

The great works of internal improvement in the inception of which Maryland was aided by the united contribution of the general government and of Virginia, but whose prosecution has fallen so heavily upon her own have been fruitful in blessings to the Union, and the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, the work whose process has most deeply involved the pecuniary condition of the state, promises to the general government yet more striking advantages.

This needs no other illustration than to remind the house that the Baltimore and Washington Rail Road runs directly to the metropolis of the Union, and thus furnishes the greatest convenience of intercourse to and from the seat of government, while its connexion with the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road not only extends this benefit to the immense west, but affords other facilities *composed* to which the mere convenience of intercourse for ordinary purposes is but trifling, found in the readiness with which important information is disseminated, while dispatches are accelerated to a degree capable of untold advantages, the transportation of arms is made easy and the removal of soldiers for the exigencies of the government so robbed of its difficulties and delays, that no reasonable fears can exist that the interest of the government will long suffer for the want of the power to support them in all these varied respects those works have contributed, and will contribute to the interest of the Union in ways and to an extent to which human sagacity looks in vain to ascertain the limits; it may be the preservation of rights the dearest to her existence, and to the execution of purposes the most magnificent that may await her destiny, it should be added to justify the promises intimated to be derived from the completion of the