

from this source, from the small sum of \$2,900, to at least \$12,000.

In closing their report, the committee think it proper to refer to a recommendation in the message of the late Executive, in regard to the collection of the revenue of the State. Not concurring in the views of the message on this point, the committee have taken no steps to carry out the recommendation, and beg leave briefly to give some of the reasons for this course.

The late Governor recommends the immediate adoption of the Independent Treasury system by this State and the collection of all taxes only in coin. The Committee think it only necessary to say, whatever may be the expediency of the system, under the general Government, there is no analogy between its position and that of the State of Maryland. The *indirect* taxes of the United States are collected primarily from the capitalists at the commercial centres of the country where money is abundant. The *direct* taxes of the State of Maryland are collected at the county court houses from the individual farmer, mechanic, and trader, and to exact coin from the people under these circumstances would be no less than an oppression. The list of taxes in arrear may afford some slight proof that if it is hard to collect in paper, it would be next to impossible to secure coin. The State of Maryland is besides a large owner of Bank stocks, and to refuse to accept the paper, which by the votes of her Directors, and the operation of her laws, she herself issues, would be a policy at least of doubtful fairness. The effect upon the value of the Bank stock property of the State by such a course of action it is unnecessary to enlarge on. The State, as long as she legalizes, and in effect issues paper money, ought not to refuse the acceptance of what the people are practically forced to take.

In conclusion, the committee express their hope, that it may be the fortune of their successors, at no distant day, to see the State relieved from the burden of taxation, and her great system of internal improvements constructed without a dollar of money, or an acre of land from the General Government, contributing to pay the expenses of State, and continuing to diffuse prosperity and material progress, among the people by whose enterprise and perseverance, they have been planned and executed.

All which is respectfully submitted,

A. STIRLING, JR., Chairman.