

on the 27th January, 1792; \$12,000 on the 6th March, 1793; \$12,000 on the 9th July, 1793, being two of the payments.

The 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 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 inquiry is, shall the State seek to be reimbursed 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 inquiry the more doubtful character, and at first suggestion, 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 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 1791, and in prosecution of a purpose in progress before this time, passed a law, by which 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 interests, 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 their 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 \$72,000, if it was a donation, was made at a period when the affairs of Maryland were in a prosperous state, and when the resources of the General Government were not yet developed. The history of the period will sufficiently illustrate this position, though it needs scarcely such a reference, since, it