

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 positions 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 lain undisturbed in the records of the past.

But now Maryland is in deep debt; an emergency exists which though not beyond her hopes to survive without dishonor, it must yet be conceded presents every possible inducement to the most prudent husbandry of our resources, and excites the most intense anxiety 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 the absolute necessities of 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 in which existed in 1790, 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 the 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 latter indirectly, but not 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 contributions 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 progress 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 connection with the Baltimore and Ohio rail road, not only extends this benefit to the immense west, but affords other facilities, compared 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