

'The committee then speak of 'the extraordinary position of the Executive of the State;' and after describing the manly course of our forefathers in relation to the same subject, remark, that they "may be permitted here to indicate the contrast Maryland now presents to the truth, fairness and pride, of her position then.'

According to the indication of the committee, my message has placed the State in a position of falsehood, weakness and shame; which qualities would be generally understood as forming a contrast to truth, firmness and pride.

The committee, after representing the Treasury of the State as 'almost exhausted, and her general revenue as inadequate to the maintenance of her public faith,' pursue their main intent by declaring, that they find her Chief Executive officer abandoning a right sustained in the midst of calamitous war, and volunteering the opinion that the assertion of it in the only practicable mode, would be a violation of the Constitution of the United States. Without presuming to question the sincerity of this opinion, your committee would repeat their regret, that uncalled by any constitutional obligation his Excellency should have deemed it necessary, while depicting in the darkest and most sombre hues, our State distresses and difficulties, (for relief from which he suggests no remedy,) to deny a right of essential importance, and so consecrated in our memories, by our deep respect for the firmness, dignity and wisdom of our forefathers.'

Towards the conclusion of their report, the committee express their 'deep concern for the best interests and the honor of the State of Maryland—both of which, they confidently believe, would be seriously affected by a departure from the high ground which her convention and several legislatures have proudly occupied in relation to the public lands. They have felt too deeply the sacrifice of State pride and State policy, involved in the principles promulgated in the communication of his Excellency to permit it to go forth to the world with the sanction which the silence of this Legislature would give it. It has been to your committee a matter of deep regret, that a time so unpropitious as the present, when the condition of our finances renders the credit and resources of the State unavailable, should have been selected by the Chief Executive officer of the State Government, to anticipate her ways and means, and to connect with a display of her embarrassments the hopelessness of relief.'

The committee, "in ignorance of any constitutional rule imposing upon his Excellency the duty of forestalling legislative action,' are disposed to deny the right of the Executive to express in a message, his views in relation to a subject of great importance to the State and the Union; and "confess the surprise with which they listened to my communication," "so far as it related to the public lands. They endeavor to show the coincidence of their own position with that maintained in our public councils during the revolution; and to produce the impression, that the principles, advanced in my message, are calculated to sacrifice the honor and interests of the State.

The Senate and House of Delegates have given their sanction to the statements and inferences of the committee, and have requested me to transmit to the governors of other States, and to members of Congress, copies of a report in which I am represented as obtruding my opinions upon the Legislature, in opposition to the rights of the people of Maryland.