

Thus posterity will possess a free Government purchased by us and at a cost that cannot be estimated, and it will be a sufficient legacy, nor does any obligation demand that for its benefit, we should still further exhaust our means and enfeeble our energies.

Self reliance is properly deemed an element of true manhood, and is not less essential to communities than it is to individuals, thus this munificent boon, by obviating any necessity for future exertions might not only become a doubtful good, but the source of positive evil.

School Funds, it is true at present, exist in a number of States, but they have not been created by excessive taxation, nor do they approximate the vast amount of that required by the Constitution of Maryland. Massachusetts, whose population is nearly twice as large as ours, whose wealth is threefold and whose School system is admitted to be of the very first order, has a fund of about one and a quarter millions, and this was derived from the sale of public lands. Connecticut, from her Western reserve lands, has derived a fund of two millions, and many of the Western States are largely endowed from a like source, the sixteenth section of every township being granted for School purposes by the United States Government. In short we have sought in vain for a precedent, and can no where find an enormous School Fund amassed by this mode. The great difficulty has always been to meet the demands of the present, and your committee are of the opinion that if these demands are fully satisfied; if our children, and their children are properly trained and instructed, we shall bequeath to posterity an intelligent, refined and cultivated people, and fully acquit ourselves of whatever moral duties we may owe them.

Only one other consideration occurs to the minds of your committee. It may be argued that in adopting the new Constitution, a majority of the people have just decided in favor this extra tax. But it is an indisputable fact that the emancipation issue merged all others, and being deemed by many a test of loyalty extorted thousands of votes in favor of the Constitution which otherwise, and under different circumstances, would have been cast against it. Had the naked question of paying this unnecessary five cents tax for the next thirty years been submitted to the people, we have no doubt that it would have been overwhelmingly negatived.

The Constitution being imperative, there is no mode of avoiding this tax but by amending it, and as the relief will be great to the already over burdened tax payers, your committee feel it to be their duty, and that of the General Assembly, to propose such amendment, and accordingly recommend the adoption of a joint resolution, as follows :