

Columbia may lawfully assume, assess, collect and pay into the Treasury of the United States, the direct tax or its quota thereof imposed by the act upon the States, Territory or the District of Columbia, in its own way and manner, by and through its own officers, assessors and collectors; and any such State, Territory or District, which shall give notice by the Governor or other proper officer thereof, to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, on or before the second Tuesday of February next, of its intention to assume and pay or to assess, collect and pay into the Treasury of the United States, the direct tax imposed by this act, shall be entitled to a deduction of fifteen per centum on the quota of direct tax apportioned to such State: provided, that the deduction shall only be made to apply to such part or parts of the same as shall have been actually paid into the Treasury of the United States, on or before the last day of June, in the year to which such payment relates.

Will you inform me at the earliest practicable period, whether the authorities of Maryland will assume and pay the amount of direct tax apportioned to that State by the existing law, and also, whether in case of any change in the law by which a different and perhaps larger amount shall be apportioned to the State, the authorities will probably assume and pay it.

I am, very Respectfully,

S. P. CHASE,

Secretary of the Treasury.

His Excellency, THOMAS H. HICKS,

Governor of the State of Maryland.

Which was read; and, on motion of Mr. Phelps,

Was referred to the committee of Ways and Means, hereafter to be appointed.

The Secretary of the Senate delivered the following:

*By the Senate,*

December 5, 1861.

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:*

We have received your message, announcing the election of the Rev'd Mr. Davenport, as the Chaplain to the House, and requesting an interchange of services between him and the gentleman selected by this Body, and we respectfully concur in the suggestion.