

It is a sound principle that no more taxes should be drawn from the people than are necessary to meet the demand for the expenses of government, economically administered. This principle, always good, is peculiarly so now, when the people have been required to pay taxes in so many forms, and to a large extent for the support of the General Government, and which will probably be increased by the present Congress.

I would not advocate a discontinuance or decrease of taxes under circumstances involving jeopardy of the State's faith or credit; but I am convinced by the experience of nearly two years past, that we have reached a time when the people may be relieved of a very considerable portion of the burthen they have borne with patience and fortitude. The Legislature of 1862, in causing an increase of State Taxes of fifteen cents in the hundred dollars, and in authorizing a loan, acted upon the known condition of the Treasury at that time, and of its inability to meet promptly *all* the demands upon it. They knew that the payment of certain claims had been postponed for want of means to pay them, and they knew of the sum demanded of Maryland by the General Government as the State's proportion of the War Tax. They were not aware, and could not be expected to be, that the decrease in the receipts from year to year, for some years previously, and until, in the fiscal year ended 30th September, 1861, they amounted to the meagre sum of \$960,813.08, whilst the disbursements were in excess of the receipts, arose from the want of a vigorous effort on the part of the Treasury officers to enforce the revenue laws and cause those revenues to be brought to the Treasury. They could not then know that the tax upon the States for war purposes, by the General Government, would be suspended after the payment of 1862. It was not entirely safe for them to assume for the future a more vigorous and efficient discharge of duty on the part of the Treasury officers, then recently installed, than there has been hitherto; and they could not know that a more strict accountability on the part of holders of public money, would be required and enforced. They had also in view the long recess of the Legislature under the Constitu-