

the tax laws have failed to reach ; a large proportion of the same description has also, during that period, changed hands, has been stricken from the tax books, and from its nature, being difficult to trace, a considerable amount has never been reinstated; in this way escaping taxation altogether, to the manifest injustice of that class of property which is of a fixed and tangible character ; and thus is contravened Article 13 of the Declaration of Rights that, paupers excepted, " every person in the State, or persons holding property therein, ought to contribute his portion of the public taxes for the support of Government according to his actual worth in real or personal property." Time serves only to increase and aggravate this grievance.

That the basis of taxation would be materially enlarged by a new assessment no more convincing argument, perhaps, could be used than that adduced by the simple presentation of a condensed statement of the valuation and assessment of property in the several Counties of the State and the City of Baltimore, made in obedience to chapter 337 of 1852:

Aggregate value of Real Estate,	- - -	\$166,754,455
“ “ “ Slaves,	- - -	14,243,597
“ “ “ Stock in Trade,	- - -	12,413,016
“ “ “ Public Securities,	- - -	5,795,576
“ “ “ Bank and other Stocks,	- - -	19,089,794
“ “ “ Private Securities,	- - -	20,602,980
“ “ “ Live Stock,	- - -	8,367,766
“ “ “ Household Furniture,	- - -	7,143,025
“ “ “ Plate,	- - -	265,117
“ “ “ Gold and Silver Watches,	- - -	345,441
“ “ “ Other Property.	- - -	6,222,863
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		\$261,243,660

The total aggregate exhibited an increase, when compared with the assessment of 1841, of \$64,492,515. The amount subject to the State Levy, however, was reduced by errors and exemptions to \$242,449,404 ; now, deducting this last sum from the amount of the assessed value of property in the State for the year 1859, excluding the addition made by the late