

terest of two loans, made in 1816 and 1817, and payable in the present year, the proceeds of which were applied in part to the rebuilding of that part of the penitentiary in Baltimore which had been consumed by fire, and in part to the ordinary expenses of the state. The whole sum borrowed was 48,000 dollars, of which 40,000 dollars went to the penitentiary, and 8,000 dollars to objects of ordinary expenditure. The interest due, and to grow due, makes up the whole amount of 72,000 dollars.

This it appears, that of the sum of 100,000 dollars, repaid by the general government, and now in the treasury, no less than 60,000 dollars, according to this scheme of finance, will be applied, in the course of this year, to ordinary current expenses. The 40,000 dollars, borrowed for rebuilding the penitentiary, in aid of the sums levied on Baltimore county, stand perhaps on a different ground. This is not an ordinary expenditure, but an extraordinary expense incurred for a permanent public object, of a very important nature. But all the other payments of the year are strictly in the course of ordinary expense. And if the whole sum of 100,000 dollars, received from the general government, should be applied to them, in aid of the ordinary revenue, it results that 60,000 dollars, it is employed as revenue, in supporting the current expenses of the state, and only 40,000 dollars, in an object of a permanent nature.

It is next to be remarked, that this repayment by the general government, is on account of the sums expended by the state, for military purposes, in the course of the late war. These sums amounted to 442,813 3/4 and were taken, with the exception of a very small part, from the capital of the state. The money, except this small part, was borrowed in the first instance, and repaid by a transfer of United States stock, which was held by the state, and constituted a part of the capital, from the interest of which its revenue was derived. The loans were made in the year 1816 and 1817, and amounted to 436,000 dollars. This sum, deducted from the amount of military expenses, 442,813 3/4 dollars, leaves a balance of 15,813 3/4 dollars, which is all that the state supplied from its revenue, towards these expenses; all the rest came out of its capital. Stock to the amount of the sum borrowed, 436,000 dollars, was transferred in payment of it, in the year 1817, and from the moment of the transfer cut off so much of the state's revenue, 26,160 dollars, as had been derived from the interest of the stock transferred. Hence it is evident, that this sum of 436,000 dollars, constituting almost the whole of the military expenses, was in fact taken from the capital of the state, and not from its revenue, and it follows, that the repayments made by the general government, on account of these expenses, ought, according to every dictate of prudent administration and economy, to be considered and treated as capital, and not as revenue. But so far as we apply these repayments to our ordinary annual expenditure we treat them as revenue, and imitate the conduct of an improvident spendthrift, who every year consumes a part of his estate, in the expenses of living.

It must be recollected, that \$80,000 of this fund have already been consumed in this manner. The general government has repaid, at different times, \$180,000 on account of these military expenditures; \$100,000 lately, and \$80,000 at antecedent periods. The first payments have been applied to the ordinary current expenses of former years, and are gone. Should we apply in the same manner, the \$100,000 last repaid, and now in the treasury, and rely in like manner on the further repayments, as part of the ways and means of the next and future years, we shall speedily come to the end of this large part of our estate, and then find ourselves with a revenue far short of our necessary annual expense.

And this time will soon arrive. For although our whole military expenditure in the late war, amounted to \$449,813 3/4, the general government has as yet assumed but \$292,813 1/4. Whether any part of the residue will be assumed, is very uncertain; and it may be considered as certain, that the whole of it will not; because a considerable part was expended in the purchase of arms and accoutrements, which now remain in the possession of the state. Of this assumed sum of \$292,813 1/4, there have already been paid \$180,000, of which \$80,000 are expended and

gone. According to this scheme of finance, the \$100,000 now in the treasury will be expended in the course of this year; and the balance still to be repaid, \$102,813 1/4, will be but little more than sufficient for the next. Thus, in the course of three years, by this most improvident and unwise system, we shall have expended three hundred thousand dollars of our capital, and find our revenue diminished by the whole amount of the interest on that sum, without any further disposable funds to supply the deficiency. It would seem wholly unnecessary to enlarge on the imprudence of such a course.

Although, therefore, at first view, the treasury appears to be well supplied, for this and the next year, sounder principles oblige us to present it under a very different aspect, and to disclose an alarming and increasing deficit. The expenditure of the year, excluding the journal of accounts for the next session, amounts as we have seen to \$218,807 95, or nearly 219,000 dollars. This includes the balance of last years appropriations unpaid, \$16,995 78, the expenses of the present session of the legislature, or journal of accounts for this year, 35,000 dollars, and the general payments, \$166,812 17. Of this last sum 40,000 dollars, is for the principal debt, formerly incurred in rebuilding the Penitentiary, which with about 2500 dollars, for the interest, ought to be deducted, as being for a particular object of a permanent nature, in which a part of the state's capital may on correct principles, or at least without so great a violation of them, be invested. This leaves the sum of \$176,807 95 for the ordinary expenditure of the state, arising from the expenses of this and former years, which must be paid this year. To meet this expenditure there is a revenue of \$122,598 19, arising from ordinary sources, and exclusive of the 100,000 dollars, received lately from the general government, which ought to be considered as capital, and reinvested in some productive fund. This leaves a deficiency of \$55,909 76. But as part of the sum to be paid this year, consists in a debt contracted for the current expenses of former years, to the amount with interest of 29,500 dollars, that sum must be deducted from the deficiency, to shew correctly the actual proportion of our income to our expenditure; or the annual and permanent deficit in the revenue.—This deduction being made from the deficiency stated above, shews an annual permanent deficit in the revenue of \$24,409 76 with a debt of 29,500 arising from former deficiencies.—And when we recollect that we have not only incurred this debt, but already expended 80,000 dollars of our capital, nothing more can be necessary to convince us, of the imprudence of persisting in such a course of measures.

The committee having taken this view of the actual state of the finances, and of the consequences which must of necessity result from continuing in the course last year adopted; from continuing to employ the capital of the state in defraying its ordinary expenses, while a large and growing deficit is suffered to exist in its revenue; deem it proper now to advert to the means by which this state of the finances was produced. And here it affords them great pleasure to be able to state, that it arose at first, not from mismanagement, or a bad financial system, but from indispensable measures of self-defence. At the commencement of the late war, the state possessed a revenue adequate to all its ordinary expenses, and to such occasional disbursements of an extraordinary nature, as were required by aid given from time to time to public improvements, and by unforeseen and extraordinary exigencies. This revenue was derived from public property, without the aid of taxation. But the war, which pressed very heavily on this state, during a great part of its continuance, required expensive measures of defence, in aid of those adopted in this part of the union, by the general government. The government of the state did not hesitate to call forth its resources in this emergency. It adopted the necessary measures for defence, and made loans to defray the expenses which they required. The amount of these loans was 436,000 dollars, which sum was borrowed in the years 1816 and 1817. The military expenses of the state, incurred chiefly in those years, amounted as we have seen to \$449,813 3/4. Although part of this sum has been refunded by the general government, and a further part has been assumed, no interest has yet been paid or allowed. But the state was obliged to pay interest on the loans, from the times when

they were obtained till they were repaid; and this repayment, effected by the transfer of stock bearing the same interest with the loans, and constituting a part of the state's capital, diminished its revenue as much from that time, as its expenses had been increased before, by the payment of the interest. This interest, on a capital of \$436,000, amounted to an annual sum of \$26,160, which was thus deducted from the revenue of the state, and amounts to something more than the regular deficit, which this deduction produced, and which it now rests with the wisdom of the legislature to supply.

In originating measures for this purpose, this house is forbidden by the constitution to take any part.—The Senate cannot propose a money bill. But it may be called on to act on the subject; and to enable itself to act properly, it ought to explore the ground, and to obtain the most accurate view in its power, of the condition and resources of the state. With this object, the committee presume that the reference to them was made, in pursuance of which they submit these statements and observations to the senate.

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

Annapolis, Thursday, Feb. 10.

The reader is referred to the first page of this day's Gazette for a law incorporating a company to erect a bridge over South River. We understand that it is contemplated to erect the bridge at or near the upper ferry. When we take into consideration the many advantages that the inhabitants of Anne-Arundel and Prince George's counties, and the citizens of Washington and Annapolis, will derive from the erection of this work, we cannot doubt that the stock will be taken with avidity. Among the many conveniences and advantages that must inevitably attend the completion of this work, may be mentioned, the facility of intercourse that it must necessarily produce between the cities of Washington and Annapolis; and in all probability will lead to the location and opening of a direct and permanent road between the two cities; thus furnishing the farmers and planters, residing in the intermediate part of the country, with a more ready and certain access to either market. Should a computation be effected, we may reasonably calculate on its becoming the great thoroughfare from the seat of government to the northern states, as the distance will be very much lessened by establishing a line of steamboats from this place to Rock Hill, or to the head of the bay, by which a rugged and dangerous road would be shunned, and the necessity of crossing the Susquehanna, a navigation always uncertain, be avoided. Indeed, so many are the public advantages which present themselves in prospect from the completion of this measure, that we may fairly calculate on the aid of the general government, for any investment which might make in this stock, would be in aid of an important national improvement, and still not be virtually an expenditure. From the known receipts at the ferry, a computation has been made, (and this computation is far below a probable estimate) that the tolls of this bridge would produce an interest of twelve per cent. We consider it therefore, not only a proper object for the attention of the general government, but also as affording an opportunity for advantageous individual speculation.

For the Maryland Gazette.

From Bob Fudge to his Brother Phil—No. 2.

Dear Phil, I promised in my last, (And I must not recede what's past,) A promise made in too much haste, For reams of paper it would waste, To let you have the full debate, Which now so agitates the state. Whether that learned statesman K—t To Calvert county should be sent, With Mr. B—t, his colleague, Or be kept in by dark intrigue. But 'twixt the post, and you, and I, Is common rumour does not lie, The Democrats, 'tis said, have boasted That B—t and R—ts should be ousted. No matter what the facts might be, To put them out they all agreed. And yet, to speak in numbers round, This thing will cost five thousand pound. But what is that for Mr. K—t? No! half his worth by ten per cent. Or Mr. B—t, with all his talents. The paltry sum would kick the balance— Yet mind, I mean, his scale would fall— It put in, body, bones and all; For 'tis admitted through the state, The man has most prodigious weight. Five thousand pound for two such men! The state wont speculate again. For some, in terms, not over nice, Swear 'tis beyond the market price. And others stare with wild amazement. And ask why there was such an arrangement. Yet I have heard a Federal wit, Call B—t—the state deficit. Because all ways and means were tried, To let him in the State Coach ride, And have the election set aside. But some ill natured folks have said it, The state more needed cash or credit. And entre nous, I think they're right, Unless he be a wondrous weight.

But to my task, for I design In part my promise to decline— First in this Legislative Hall, He who presides and rules o'er all, Above the rest on cushioned pinnacle, Which he perhaps would call a binnacle, Sits General S. whose mettled horse, In spite of curb, would fly the course, And up the turnpike swiftly run, When first he heard a British gun. Some say the General look'd so fierce His very shadow scared his horse; Or that the devil had in him got; Or wizard, such as Michael Scott, Whose magic book, with weight and pain, Pressed on the breast of Deloivaine,

And made his horse dash through the food, In spite of all his rider could. But be the matter as it may, The horse no longer there would stay; Yet certain folks have thrown out slurs, That the devil was in the riders spurs. But to return—this warrior now Bears civic honours on his brow; Honours, with which they have array'd him.

That late he'er thought of when she made him. Forgot the sword—the mare he sways— And awes the house with sterner gaze. With such a plume that well might ask The privilege to wear a mask. Would he declares, upon demand, The rules of wrong throughout the land; And midst confusion and disorder, Decides who is, or not, in order. Suppose we, then, the day arriv'd, And every proper plan contriv'd, Imagine too the great resort: Of folks, to hear the grand report, Which many think was made in sport. How died away each whisper's sound, And death like silence reign'd around. When General Sweep rose in his place, P'drill his special babes of grace.

Who would at his command be civil, Or hold the stirrup for the devil? But dangerous grounds I tread on here, My words perhaps might actious bear, So therefore, Phil, I'll barely say, There was a wondrous great display, And frequent calls of you and nay. Phil, there is more beneath the sky, Than dreams our dull philosophy; For modern statesmen play such tricks, As metaphysical politics. They clearly shew, that legal rules Of evidence, were made for fools; And would not give a single fiber For all the rules laid down by Gilbert; And as for Lott, and all the rest, Who shew what evidence is best, They are no longer in request— What suits your end is, rule the best. They know the point to which they'd go; This stumbling block's the quomodo. This once decide it, it is easy To do whatever it may please you. And thus progressed this mock inquiry, With temper hot, and spirits fiery; Until the Federalists perceived, That any story was believed, No matter how or whence it came, From culprit's, or from hearsay fame; And that he was resolv'd, no doubt, That B—t or R—ts should go out; They therefore ceased their words to waste On pastebard skulls, and brains of paste. In fine, affairs are so conducted, That K—t and B—t are indicted. And now the quizzing Federal bloods, Call them the Calvert smuggled goods. Much more, with observation too, I could, dear Phil, relate to you, And other matters hith in rhyme, I have the will, but not the time; I must attend to some other job, So, I remain, your brother BOB.

For the Maryland Gazette.

MR. EDITOR, Our Legislature, it appears, has adopted a scheme for getting rid of business, which in my humble opinion deserves more applause for the ingenuity of the invention, than for the wholesome and salutary effects it will have on the public. If they would take the pains to enquire, they would learn that they are labouring under false impressions, perhaps inspired by a misguided zeal. The general practice of referring bills to the consideration of the next General Assembly, cannot fail to strike every considerate observer with surprise and astonishment. True it is, in some cases it is by no means improper, but practised, as it appears to be here, without any kind of discrimination, it is undoubtedly one of the most abominable devices ever promulgated in a legislative body. It is an evil, Sir, the rapid growth of which I have lately witnessed with pain; and I do not hesitate to assert, without fear of contradiction, that it is an evil which, should it not be speedily arrested, but suffered to go on and ripen into custom, (and ripen into custom it most assuredly will unless arrested in its progress,) will have a most powerful tendency, not only to thwart, but even to subvert the very ends of legislation.

What must be the feelings of our representatives, when they seriously reflect on the proceedings of this session? If their consciences are not very badly informed, those advocates for referring bills to the next General Assembly, must be stung to the heart, when they enquire of themselves what they have done, and what they are about to do? For the answer must be this, and not much else—We have settled the Calvert election; and that the state might see we had an eye to the Treasury, we turned that business over to a committee to investigate, in order that we might, in the mean time, appear to proceed with the ordinary business; and thus holding out to view, the idea of saving the public money, we cut and carved business with all our might, which we never intended to finish, but to turn over to the next session, as soon as the Calvert question should be decided, and so close the session. Besides this, we have passed two or three public bills of no great importance; and although there is no money in the treasury, except that which is of right, part of the state's capital, we have rejected the auction bill, because Baltimore would be deprived of more money by it than

any other action of the state of the same extent, which would make it an unpopular act; and soon require our presence, thereby referred to the consideration of the next general assembly.

Now, I would ask these gentlemen, (without meaning to give offence.) What they came here for? Whether they came to serve the public, or their own convenience? And if they came to do the duty of the state, how can they be otherwise than their duty to every bill that comes before them, to deliberate and fair investigate, and to decide thereon, to pass or reject it.

Should there be danger of too great an accumulation of business, it is easy would it be, at some recess in the session, to prevent the bill in future. But instead of this I have seen leave given to bring bills the very same day that the important ones were referred for the purpose of saving time. If referred were intended or desired, that they should be taken up and considered by the next legislature, would not be quite so bad, but in that case would it not be at least extremely improper, by clogging every succeeding legislature with the unfinished business of the former? But when a bill is referred, if I am rightly informed, it is tantamount to a rejection, and most every motion to refer, coming in this specious garb of friendly desire for future consideration, is in reality a subterfuge, avoiding an impartial examination, or from popular motives, to bring your votes from appearing before a scrutinizing public. By this proceeding, sir, there is an enormous consumption of time, and of public money, in preparing and passing bills which are never acted on, than there has been any one time during the present session—but indeed it is business of most importance that is treated in such contempt—for I have red, are of the most important, ought not from the importance of their nature, be finally disposed of until they shall have tried the test of two legislatures—but calculate that they, in preference to all other bills, will certainly be considered by the legislature to which they are referred—but I find such is not the case; they are seldom, if ever, taken up—and if one happens to be brought up and introduced, it stands a great chance of being postponed, and last referred again;—and all this done through pretence of saving public money. This, then, sir, is a waste of the house. These faults, I have presented for the consideration of the public, they deserve to be well thought of.

LOBBY LOUNGER. Annapolis, Feb. 8, 1820.

On motion by Mr. Leconte, the following resolutions were adopted: Resolved, That the members of this house, in the course of the late war, have expended a sum of money, the amount of which is not known, for the purchase of arms and accoutrements, which now remain in the possession of the state. Of this assumed sum of \$292,813 1/4, there have already been paid \$180,000, of which \$80,000 are expended and

gone. According to this scheme of finance, the \$100,000 now in the treasury will be expended in the course of this year; and the balance still to be repaid, \$102,813 1/4, will be but little more than sufficient for the next. Thus, in the course of three years, by this most improvident and unwise system, we shall have expended three hundred thousand dollars of our capital, and find our revenue diminished by the whole amount of the interest on that sum, without any further disposable funds to supply the deficiency. It would seem wholly unnecessary to enlarge on the imprudence of such a course.

Although, therefore, at first view, the treasury appears to be well supplied, for this and the next year, sounder principles oblige us to present it under a very different aspect, and to disclose an alarming and increasing deficit. The expenditure of the year, excluding the journal of accounts for the next session, amounts as we have seen to \$218,807 95, or nearly 219,000 dollars. This includes the balance of last years appropriations unpaid, \$16,995 78, the expenses of the present session of the legislature, or journal of accounts for this year, 35,000 dollars, and the general payments, \$166,812 17. Of this last sum 40,000 dollars, is for the principal debt, formerly incurred in rebuilding the Penitentiary, which with about 2500 dollars, for the interest, ought to be deducted, as being for a particular object of a permanent nature, in which a part of the state's capital may on correct principles, or at least without so great a violation of them, be invested. This leaves the sum of \$176,807 95 for the ordinary expenditure of the state, arising from the expenses of this and former years, which must be paid this year. To meet this expenditure there is a revenue of \$122,598 19, arising from ordinary sources, and exclusive of the 100,000 dollars, received lately from the general government, which ought to be considered as capital, and reinvested in some productive fund. This leaves a deficiency of \$55,909 76. But as part of the sum to be paid this year, consists in a debt contracted for the current expenses of former years, to the amount with interest of 29,500 dollars, that sum must be deducted from the deficiency, to shew correctly the actual proportion of our income to our expenditure; or the annual and permanent deficit in the revenue.—This deduction being made from the deficiency stated above, shews an annual permanent deficit in the revenue of \$24,409 76 with a debt of 29,500 arising from former deficiencies.—And when we recollect that we have not only incurred this debt, but already expended 80,000 dollars of our capital, nothing more can be necessary to convince us, of the imprudence of persisting in such a course of measures.

The committee having taken this view of the actual state of the finances, and of the consequences which must of necessity result from continuing in the course last year adopted; from continuing to employ the capital of the state in defraying its ordinary expenses, while a large and growing deficit is suffered to exist in its revenue; deem it proper now to advert to the means by which this state of the finances was produced. And here it affords them great pleasure to be able to state, that it arose at first, not from mismanagement, or a bad financial system, but from indispensable measures of self-defence. At the commencement of the late war, the state possessed a revenue adequate to all its ordinary expenses, and to such occasional disbursements of an extraordinary nature, as were required by aid given from time to time to public improvements, and by unforeseen and extraordinary exigencies. This revenue was derived from public property, without the aid of taxation. But the war, which pressed very heavily on this state, during a great part of its continuance, required expensive measures of defence, in aid of those adopted in this part of the union, by the general government. The government of the state did not hesitate to call forth its resources in this emergency. It adopted the necessary measures for defence, and made loans to defray the expenses which they required. The amount of these loans was 436,000 dollars, which sum was borrowed in the years 1816 and 1817. The military expenses of the state, incurred chiefly in those years, amounted as we have seen to \$449,813 3/4. Although part of this sum has been refunded by the general government, and a further part has been assumed, no interest has yet been paid or allowed. But the state was obliged to pay interest on the loans, from the times when

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But to my task, for I design In part my promise to decline— First in this Legislative Hall, He who presides and rules o'er all, Above the rest on cushioned pinnacle, Which he perhaps would call a binnacle, Sits General S. whose mettled horse, In spite of curb, would fly the course, And up the turnpike swiftly run, When first he heard a British gun. Some say the General look'd so fierce His very shadow scared his horse; Or that the devil had in him got; Or wizard, such as Michael Scott, Whose magic book, with weight and pain, Pressed on the breast of Deloivaine,

Negative—Speaker, Marriot, T. W. Millard, Haywood, Shivers, H. Price, Showers, H. Price, Cross, R. T. Harrison, Hollingsworth, Iiams, Hawkins, Marriott, Forwood, Hardscastle, Goneroy, Breckenridge, Gabby, Kennedy, Greenwell—42.
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