

the law against the first delinquents." In this state of things others were encouraged to follow the example of the delinquents; "and now, instead of three, we have seven counties, within whose boundaries the tax laws are not all enforced." "No one in the defaulting counties, it appears is willing to encounter the odium of becoming the collector of the tax levied to pay the interest on our internal improvement debt."

Mr. J. said, these gloomy forebodings pervaded the whole message, and he retired from the Chair of State, leaving to his successors a Treasury embarrassed; the laws unexecuted; the credit of the State prostrated at home and abroad. He concludes his message as follows: "In the retirement to which I go, I shall hail, with exultation, the evidence of wisdom and patriotism on the part of yourselves, and your successors, which will lift my native State into the rank which she has a right to occupy among her sisters of the Union."

Mr. J. said he would call the attention of the House to the other side of the picture. He had successors whose "wisdom and patriotism," and energy and zeal, did lift the State into the rank which she had a right to occupy. These successors were Governor Pratt, and Governor Philip Francis Thomas, under whose administration that system of revenue was adopted, which in the language of the latter Governor, will "prevent the possibility of a relapse to her former cheerless and degrading condition," and which the distinguished gentleman from Frederick desires now to disturb. How stood matters when Governor Pratt's term, which immediately succeeded the one and preceded the other, expired. Mr. J. said he would refer to the message of the late Governor to the Legislature at December session, 1847, in which he says: "the condition of the finances as represented in the annual message of the Governor, and the report of the Treasurer, is a subject of profound congratulation. While it has been the privilege of my distinguished predecessor, (Governor Pratt,) by his assiduity, firmness, and ability to rescue Maryland from the vortex of insolvency in which he found her engulfed, and to elevate her to that proud position before the world, which the character of her people entitle her to occupy, it will be my more humble aim to discharge the functions of the executive office with fidelity as to ensure stability in the revenues, inspire increased confidence in the honor and integrity of the State, and to prevent the possibility of a relapse to her former cheerless and degrading condition." This is the best testimony, Mr. J. said, coming as it did from a political opponent and his immediate successor, that could be offered to the "wisdom and patriotism" of Governor Pratt. Mr. J. said there was one fact he took this opportunity to refer to. It was his lot during the gloomy administration of the gentleman from Frederick, to be on the other side of the Atlantic. He, like every other American in Europe, deeply and sensibly felt the taunts and denunciations which were unceasingly cast upon the credit and honor of the States.

He felt for all, but most for his native State, Maryland; and when the cheering message of

Governor Pratt, announcing that the credit of Maryland was redeemed, first caught his view, he then felt again as an American—as a Marylander—without reproach. None, save those who have experienced similar emotions, can appreciate them. It was the absorbing question of the day Maryland having taken the lead, the other States would soon follow. To Governor Pratt and those who co-operated with him, is the credit due. What now is her condition? And to what state of prosperity, under judicious legislation, and administration, she may expect to arrive, may be anticipated from the Treasurer's report, and the last message of Governor Philip Francis Thomas, who after reviewing the various sources of revenue and the public debt, thus expresses:

"It will then be seen that \$375,000, at least, may be safely appropriated to the annual payment of the main debt, while a balance will always remain on hand, more than sufficient to cover any unforeseen contingency. That amount, together with the increase of the sinking fund, regularly invested, will extinguish the entire public debt, in thirteen years from the first day of December, 1851." This estimate, however, proceeds upon the hypothesis that in the mean time, no attempt will be successfully made to disturb the existing system of taxation, and that it will be left in all its integrity, to work out the relief which it is so certain to afford.

"Allow the system to continue untouched for at most fifteen years longer, and Maryland will present the anomalous and enviable spectacle of a commonwealth liberated from debt, supported without taxation, and possessed of an annual surplus revenue of from three to five hundred thousand dollars."

Mr. J. said he would make no apology for reading thus copiously from these messages. The extracts showed the true financial condition of the State at the respective periods referred to; and from the attention of the House, he saw that the facts were interesting to all.

The gentleman from Frederick has protested against the messages of Governors, having an effect upon the stock market, as producing an unsound state of things.

Mr. J. considered it the duty of the chief Executive officer of the State, to present the true condition of the finances, and to recommend such measures as he deemed best calculated to promote the great interests of the State.

The gentleman from Frederick, had in his message expressed his opinions of the embarrassed condition of the revenue. They were of a desponding character—the effect of which was felt at home and abroad, and did produce depression in the State stocks and State credit. His two immediate successors presented a different state of things. Instead of repudiation, insolvency, rebellion against the laws, which were then anticipated, they left her redeemed from the stain which had rested upon her, rescued from the "vortex of insolvency in which they found her engulfed." Was not this an appropriate topic for an Executive message? Is it not