

and the people would fully realise the prospect of discharging the whole by a not very distant date, and would therefore pay their taxes with even greater cheerfulness than before.

It was intimated that very extravagant estimates had been made of future receipts from the internal improvements. He himself had certainly indulged in no wild speculations on the subject. He had stated no particular sum as his own estimate. The gentleman from Cecil, (Mr. McLane,) had spoken of \$500,000 annually. In their present unfinished condition they yielded to the State \$200,000, and were constantly increasing in productiveness; and when the debt was paid off, there certainly would be large receipts from this source, to be disposed of in some manner or other. He would take occasion to state, that he had not made any calculation on receipts from the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. On that point he agreed entirely with the gentleman from Frederick. (Mr. Thomas). To more than seven millions of our money, and all the interest thereon, that work was,

A gulf profound as that Serbonian bog,
Betwixt Damietta and Mount Casius old,
Where armies whole have sunk;—

He feared the entire amount was irrecoverably gone.

Mr. D. then said, that some remarks of the gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Thomas,) made it proper that he should speak of a matter somewhat personal to himself. He would not have risen for the purpose, but being on the floor, he thought it well not to let the occasion pass. That gentleman had used the expression, that he was not present when the honors were shared in relation to restoring the credit of the State. When the gentleman from Dorchester, (Mr. Phelps,) in the course of argument the other day, had spoken of him, (Mr. D.,) as having done more to restore the credit of the State than any other person except Governor Pratt, he, (Mr. D.,) thought, that to make any public disclaimer of his title to such an honor, would in itself be assuming too much importance to himself. In private, he had told that gentleman, how much he had exaggerated the merit of any act of his, (Mr. D.'s,) and what injustice he had unintentionally done to others. Afterward, when the gentleman from Queen Anne's, (Mr. Spencer,) claimed that his colleague, (Governor Grason,) had taken the first and boldest step, by advising the imposition of the direct tax, he (Mr. D.,) had interposed to say, that he, (Mr. D.,) had not pretended to claim for himself any credit whatever. He had never estimated what he himself had done at any considerable value. All the most important part of the work had been accomplished by others, before he came upon the field of action. The gentleman from Frederick had informed us of his own claims, of which he, (Mr. D.,) had not before been aware. In regard to others, public records showed us who had been most prominent in the cause of State faith. Governor Grason, in his message, had first publicly recommended the direct tax; it was a bold and noble act, when the circumstances are considered. The late Robert W. Bowie,

of Prince George's, deserved, perhaps, more praise than any other man; for by his independence and energy, in the face of opposition and clamor, the law imposing the direct tax was carried through the Legislature. That was the most difficult task of all. Then Governor Pratt and Chancellor Johnson, the first by his recommendations and influence, and the latter by his indefatigable exertions as chairman of the ways and means in the House of Delegates, secured the passage of supplementary tax laws, by which our Treasury was brought into a condition to meet the just demands of our creditors. When he, (Mr. D.,) came to the Legislature, it fell to his lot to occupy a position, which rendered it necessary for him to become acquainted with the condition of our finances. Finding that the measures previously adopted had fully accomplished their object, it was his duty to announce the fact, and to demonstrate to others, as well as he could, that the State might safely resume the payment of interest as her debt. That was all he had done. Any honest man, in his position, would have done the same thing. It had not been necessary for him to propose new burdens on the people; the odium of that had been encountered by those who preceded him; and he had only endeavored to make the previous laws more efficient in their operation. His name had been connected with the final act, which was the consummation to which the labors of others had brought us, and thus a credit had been conferred upon him, which he knew that he never deserved. All he could claim was, to have felt and to feel for the honor and good faith of the State as if they were his own—and such must be the feeling of every true son of Maryland.

Mr. PRESSTMAN rose, he said, not to participate at any length in the discussion, but to inquire of his friend from Anne Arundel. (Mr. Donaldson,) if he could state what amount was paid into the Treasury, arising from the auxiliary tax laws, as they are familiarly termed, and of the whole sum, what proportion was paid by the city of Baltimore? His object in propounding the question was this, that it might have its due weight in the distribution of honors which had been spoken of in connection with the maintenance of the State's credit. He thought it would appear from the Treasurer's report, that nearly two-thirds of the revenue arising from the acts of 1844, which had been suggested by Governor Pratt, was collected in that city. He did not mean in the smallest degree to take from the deservedly energetic and talented executive to whom he had referred his just share of the public esteem to which he was entitled, for the part he bore in that crisis of the State's history. But this much he was bound to say, that there were other public men in the councils of the State, sustained by patriotic constituencies to whom the meed of praise is also due, and first among the foremost in his estimation, was the lamented Robert W. Bowie, of Prince George's, the distinguished chairman of the committee of ways and means, who in 1841, brought forward the direct tax system of the State. No man need desire a higher eulogy than the annals of the State