

be created, except by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to both branches of the legislature; a result, which, looking to the probable structure of the House of Delegates, it was almost impossible to procure. That measure, he regarded as the most important and salutary of the session, as it was calculated to inspire the public creditor, with increased confidence in the security of his bonds. To-day a proposition was introduced, now under consideration, which seemed to distrust the stability of the finance system of the State, in as much as it contemplated a constitutional obligation, to impel the performances of a duty, which the people had promptly met, by mere legislative enactments.

This proposition, he was sure, would be voted down, not that there was any disposition to relax any of the existing laws, but because a majority of this House believe it not only to be an act of supererogation, so far as regarded the certainty of the continuance of such laws, whilst the necessity existed for them, but also because the subject itself was in its very nature unfit to be made a part of the organic law; a subject, modification in which, would obviously be necessary from time to time, as circumstances might require. The Constitution now to be made, it was to be hoped, would endure long after the public debt was discharged, and until perhaps it was forgotten.

The future was full of justifiable hope, for a reduction of taxes, and it would, therefore, be unwise to establish, by constitutional law, a permanent system of finance, to thus fetter the hands of the legislature, in total disregard of the probable ability of the State to meet all her obligations, as she had heretofore done, by proper legislation; he had deemed it to be his duty to state the reasons, which influenced his vote, that he might not be subject to the imputation of a want of zeal for the preservation of the honor of the State.

Mr. DAVIS had no wish to enter into the merits of the question under consideration; but in this "rendering unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's," he thought it the duty of even the humblest member upon this floor, to give any facts in his possession, and which had not been adverted to.

He was inclined to this, because his friend from Anne Arundel, in echoing the sentiment of the gentleman from Frederick, [Mr. Thomas] had described, the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, as the great Serbonian bog, in which so large a portion of the resources of the State had been sunk.

It will be recollected that Mr. THOMAS, who had that morning claimed so much credit for having been the first to suggest the means of extricating the State from her financial difficulties, was, in the years '39-'40—the President of the canal company—that having exhausted the means hitherto provided for the completion of the canal, he applied at the session of '40, for further aid from the State, to that work—that the legislature refused this application—that after the adjournment of the legislature, he, as President of the company, had issued a large amount of scrip which the committee of ways and means of the

next legislature pronounced to be without any basis whatever. The amount of this currency thus issued, run up from \$500,000 to \$700,000. The committee stated that they declined to say any thing about the propriety of issuing this amount of scrip immediately after the refusal of the legislature to appropriate the amount which the gentleman asked for to complete the canal.

[Here Mr. D. read an extract from the report.]

He, [Mr. D.] was not here to defend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal company. He had personally but little interest in it. But it had been assailed, and justice ought to be done it; and considering the large investment the State had made in that great work, he thought it would be much more noble and patriotic for gentlemen, instead of pre-judging its results, now that it was just completed, at least to give it a trial. These assaults and predictions could now do no good; there only effect was to injure the credit of a great State work. He could not see the propriety of speaking of it in this tone.

Mr. D. would now say a word to the gentleman from Baltimore, [Mr. Prestman.] The gentleman had asked with a point and tone, which showed that he designed the question for effect, whether Baltimore had not contributed two-thirds of the whole revenues of the State? He would, by way of reply, ask that gentleman, what part Baltimore had had in bringing about the necessity for this taxation?

Mr. PRESTMAN replied, that Baltimore had at that time only two representatives in the House of Delegates, and he thought it not likely they could corrupt the whole legislature.

Mr. DAVIS. Yes, but two delegates, Messrs. Cushing and Jones—and without intending any disparagement to other gentlemen, they were quite as good representatives as Baltimore has had since that time. But Baltimore, it seems, was not satisfied with what these gentlemen could do; she called town meetings.

Mr. PRESTMAN begged leave to explain. He had never intended to go into the subject of internal improvements.

Mr. DAVIS resumed. Why is the gentleman so restless? Cannot he stand the probe? Will he not suffer the truth to be told? He, [Mr. D.] proposed to read a scrap of history. He would call the attention of the gentleman from Baltimore, to a letter signed Jesse Hunt, mayor of Baltimore, recommending a town meeting to send a committee to Annapolis, lest the act granting a loan of \$2,000,000 to the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, should fail. And this committee—this numerous delegation—[Mr. CHAMBERS, (in his seat.) Representation according to population]—were sent here to represent to the Legislature, that the interest of *Baltimore* and the State, required the passage of the loan bill.

Mr. PRESTMAN rose to explain, stating that not a single word had been said by him in relation to internal improvements.

He knew perfectly well why this discussion was kept up, and every one knew, whoever in-