

that our, must not be confined to the few, - it must be generally diffused.  
The Sovereign Power - the right to Judge and controul, resides equally in all,  
Let all then be furnished with the lights to guide that Judgment, and regulate  
the exercise of that Power.

The State of our Finances will be found to be such as to require your  
early and serious attention. A considerable amount of the Stocks, heretofore issued  
in payment of the State subscription to the different works of Internal improvement,  
is now bearing interest, and this amount is progressively increasing, as the  
periods to which it was deferred by the Laws directing its issue, successively  
expire. The demands upon the Treasury will be considerably increased from  
this cause during the coming season, rendering it indispensably necessary  
that you should provide for a correspondent increase of its resources.

The National debt being extinguished, and the National  
Treasury being abundantly supplied with revenue by the existing Tariff (which  
none seem disposed to disturb) the future disposition of the Public Lands, or  
the revenue arising therefrom, becomes a question of deep concernment, espe-  
cially to the older members of the Confederacy. Various propositions have been  
made in relation to this subject, at different times, and from different sources,  
some of them evidently conflicting with the interests and just rights of this State,  
it has appeared to us proper to present the question to your consideration,  
for such action on your part, as, under ~~the~~ the circumstances, shall  
seem meet and expedient. That this domain is the common property  
of the Union cannot with propriety be denied. A very large portion  
of it was acquired by the blood and Treasure of the original States, and  
the residue purchased by funds equally contributed by all. What sym-  
blance of justice then there can be found for bestowing it, gratuitously,  
upon the State within whose borders it happens to lie, it is difficult,  
if not impossible, to perceive. Reducing the price at which these Lands  
shall be sold to a mere nominal sum, or at all below the rate now fixed,  
appears to be useless, if not more objectionable; for this would equally deprive  
us of our rightful claim to a participation of their fair Value. The abundance  
and cheapness of the Public Lands have long been serious obstacles to the  
growth and prosperity of most of the Atlantic States, and to few, if any,  
more so than to Maryland. We would not be understood as wishing  
in any manner, to impede the fortunes of such of our fellow citizens, as  
may choose to emigrate, with the hope of bettering their condition, neither  
are we actuated by the least feeling of prejudice towards our younger  
sisters of the West, but it would be un-natural and unjust to the old  
States, not to insist upon our indisputable right, at least, to a fair  
proportion of the property, as well of this common property, to be applied to  
such objects within our own borders, as the wants and interests of the  
community may dictate.

Whilst the National debt existed, no claim was advanced  
for participation in the avails of these Lands, because they were known to  
be pledged for its redemption; but now that it is extinguished, the propriety