

1840

January 2nd

The Governor having been informed by a committee jointly appointed by the two houses of the General Assembly that they had organized, sent to them the following message.

Speakers of the Senate
and of the House of Delegates

The pecuniary embarrassments of the State, and the pre-Annual
sunt condition of the works of internal improvement are the most important subjects that will Message
come under your consideration. The public debt of Maryland according to a statement furnished
by the Treasurer, amounts to fourteen millions, five hundred and eighty seven thousand, six hundred
and eighty nine dollars. This sum includes but five thousand five hundred dollars of the
loan of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars granted at the last session to the Balti-
more and Annapolis Rail Road Company. The bonds for the residue of the loan are
not yet disposed of, and are still in the possession of the Commissioners of Loans. Of the
million of dollars subscribed to the Eastern Shore Rail Road, and of the three hundred
thousand subscribed to the Annapolis and Elkridge Rail Road, the estimate of the Treas-
urer includes only that portion which has been actually paid.

So far as the State is liable
for the balance of these subscriptions, or for the bonds issued for the use of the Annapolis
and Elkridge Rail Road Company, an addition is to be made to the Treasurer's estimate. It is
therefore difficult to state precisely the amount of the public debt. Some uncertainty is con-
taining, it also arises, from the substitution of five per cent. sterling bonds for those previously
issued, at the rate of four dollars and forty four cents for the pound sterling, instead of the
true rate of four dollars and eighty five cents; which makes a considerable difference in
the whole amount.

This State received as its portion of the surplus revenue 958,828 dollars;
of which there remains a balance of 647,637 dollars, deposited in the Union Bank,
The Franklin Bank and the Bank of Baltimore. As the General Government is not likely
to reclaim the sums distributed among the States, the portion received by this State is not estimated
at present as a part of its public debt; on the contrary the balance remaining may be consid-
ered as so much added to its means of complying with other engagements. Of the productive
capital of the State there is still left the sum of 528,996 dollars maintained in the stock of
different Banks. The sinking fund has been gradually accumulating till it now amounts
to 1,013,372 dollars; nearly the whole of which sum has been invested in State Stocks.
After deducting the sinking fund, the debts and liabilities of the State probably amount to fif-
teen millions of dollars; and with the exception of 256,855 dollars, have all been contracted
for purposes of internal improvement.

The interest of the public debt is increasing every year
in proportion to the amount of stock sold. The amount payable at the loan office in Bal-
timore, in 1838 was 280,000 dollars, in 1839 it was 291,000 and in 1840 it will be three
hundred and thirty thousand dollars. The interest payable at London cannot be ascertained