

Message. deep regret, that a time so propitious as the present, when the condition of our finances renders the credit and resources of the State unavailable, should have been selected by the Chief Executive Officer of the State Government to anticipate her ways and means, and to connect with a display of her embarrassments, the hopelessness of relief.

The committee in "ignorance of any constitutional rule imposing upon His Excellency the duty of forestalling legislative action," are disposed to deny the right of the Executive to express in a message, his views in relation to a subject of great importance to the State and the Union; and "confess the surprise with which they listened to my communication," so far as it related to the public lands. The endeavour to show the coincidence of their own position, with that maintained in our public Council during the revolution; and to produce the impression, that the principles advanced in my message, are calculated to sacrifice the honor and interests of the State.

The Senate and House of Delegates have given their sanction to the statements and inferences of the committee, and have requested me to transmit to the Governors of other States, and to members of Congress, copies of a report in which I am represented as obtruding my opinion upon the Legislature, in opposition to the rights of the people of Maryland.

The Governor of this State is certainly not required by the Constitution to communicate his views in relation to the relation to the public lands, or to transmit an annual message to the Legislature. As a justification for such a course, and for expressing his opinions in that mode, he can only rely upon the custom which has long prevailed and upon the nature of his office. His annual message is expected as a matter of course; and in preparing it he performs what he supposes to be his duty. If his object were to present only such views as were acceptable to the Legislature, he would find some difficulty in deciding what topics ought to be introduced or omitted; for the risk of giving offence is the same whether he expresses his opinions or remains silent. Accordingly it happens that while the committee on the public lands have censured me for volunteering my opinions on that subject, the committee to whom was referred that part of my message which relates to the Tobacco Trade have expressed their regret that my attention was not turned "to the examination of a subject so deeply interwoven with the interest of so large a portion of the people of the State, whose interests it is my duty to guard." Indeed the committee add, "the grievances which the history of this interest unfolds, should claim the attention of every one who feels, as he ought, for the welfare of the State."

Thus I am charged by one committee with "forestalling legislative action" because I ventured to examine the question of the public lands; and by another, with not having a proper regard for the welfare of the State, because I did not go into an examination of the restrictions imposed by Foreign Governments on American Tobacco. A statement of the finances seems to be nearly as objectionable as an argument respecting the public lands. I gave an account of the revenue, expenditures and debts of the State, as it was received from the Treasurer without exaggeration or comment; yet the report, adopted by the Senate and House of Delegates, represents this part as "depicting the distresses and difficulties of the State in the darkest and most sombre hues."

As the Senate and House of Delegates have proclaimed to the people of this State, their unwillingness to concur with the Executive