

enormous public debt has been contracted. In the exercise of their authority, the whole currency of the State has been repeatedly deranged. Their incomes and disbursements exceed largely, the ordinary expenditures of the State, and in fact they constitute an imperium in imperio, sufficiently powerful to justify a people jealous of their rights, in insisting upon the subordination of their governments to the only sovereign power in the State, the popular will signified through its immediate representatives. It is most respectfully submitted for your consideration to determine, whether this law of December session 1840, ought not to be repealed, or at least remodeled so that the authority with which the Senate is now clothed, may be placed in the House of Delegates, or in the Legislature, to be exercised on joint ballot, to guard against its employment for any other purposes than those promotive of the great public interest involved. It cannot be expected that all parties, and all classes can be harmonized in support of any system of taxation that may be devised, if the whole people are to pay, and the minority alone, to manage and expend all the public revenue.

Letters will be communicated which have received from the Treasury Department of the United States, giving information as to the distributive share of this State of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands. From them it will appear, that the distributive share of Maryland is \$15,187.84, and that the claim of the United States on account of interest due on Maryland bonds held in trust for certain Indians, is \$19,483.81, and that the Treasurer of the United States has retained the whole fund, and still has an unsettled demand for \$24,296.27.

Nothing has influenced more fatally the evil councils by which so many of the States have become involved, than the delusive expectations rekindled as fast as they are quenched, of pecuniary largesses from the national treasury for state purposes. The distribution law, (miscalled the deposit act,) which beggared the general government, whilst but few of the recipients of its bounties have been enriched, caused a most unfortunate revolution in public feeling, if not in public opinion. The possession of that fund, stimulating as it did the wildest public speculations, destroyed at once, all those salutary restraints founded in the habits of the people, and the condition and powers of their local governments. An inexhaustible fountain of wealth, it was believed, had been opened which was to flow in perennial streams into the State Treasuries. State Legislators, it was thought, were no longer to be limited in their operations, or abridged in their expenditures by the amount of revenue they might be emboldened to take directly, by taxes from the pockets of the people. A new source of supply was to come through the breach made in the Federal Constitution. Private property was to be obtained for public purposes, by a less perceptible because more circuitous route. High tariffs were to be levied to supply, not only the demands of the national Treasury, but in conjunction with the land sales, to furnish a surplus for distribution, after that deposited was exhausted. Under the influence of these and similar delusions, the large and oppressive debt of Maryland has been contracted. And now, when the people are groaning under the weight of taxes imposed, we have an exhibit of their share of the vast amounts expected from the national treasury, in a sum insufficient to pay the interest on a few bonds held in trust for tribes of Indians. This is the result of the land bill. It is as fruitless as ashes. This melancholy and mortifying disappointment to most buoyant hopes, should