

my judgement, politicians were never more mistaken, and the mistake is occasioned by the common error with politicians in placing an undue estimate upon the intelligence of the people.

The people of Maryland entirely comprehend the political problem, and recognize as a political toxin, that the transfer of the appointment of the officers charged with the execution of the laws from the State authorities to the people of the several counties, would practically destroy the State Government, and build upon its ruins separate and independent county governments, irresponsible alike to the State and to each other. Our constituents desire that the laws passed by their representatives should be fully and impartially administered, and will, I am satisfied, approve of no legislation which would deprive their government of the powers necessary for that purpose.

Having discharged my duty in bringing distinctly to your notice the inadequacy of the Executive authority to enforce the observance of the revenue laws, and in pointing out the utter inutility of all the laws which have been, or which may be passed unaccompanied with adequate power to enforce them, I submit the subject to your consideration, with entire confidence in your patriotism and judgement, and with the full conviction that you will promptly and efficiently remedy these defects in the legislation of your predecessors.

After providing for the future prompt and certain enforcement of the revenue laws, you will, in my judgement, disregard public opinion, and the well ascertained will of your constituents, if you should omit to fix a day upon which the State shall resume the payment of the accruing interest on the public debt, and from which she shall continue to pay the interest as it becomes due. The honor of the State and the interest of her citizens imperatively demand of you efficient action upon this all important subject. I need not ask you, Gentlemen, in coming to its consideration, to throw aside all views of party or individual political advantage, and to look solely to the honor of your State, and the welfare of your constituents; for I am persuaded that the political destruction of the individual or party is irrevocably sealed, that shall omit to propose, ^{or shall oppose} the passage of such laws, as, in the opinion of the people, will be certainly adequate to redeem, and, for the future, preserve the credit of the State.

The annual interest on the public debt is \$655,421.20; and there has been paid during the fiscal year ending on the 1st of December 1845, in liquidation of arrears of interest, the sum of \$710,784.51. The gratifying result is consequently exhibited that the arrears of interest on the public debt (instead of increasing, as in previous years, at the rate of about three hundred thousand dollars per year,) have been actually diminished during the past fiscal year by the sum of \$55,363.70. The arrears of