

what is now conjecture will be settled by experience, and the interesting problem to the people of Maryland will be solved, whether the annual interest of \$400,000, with which the State is now charged for her expenditure on account of this work, will be met by the profits of the work, or continue a perpetual charge upon the people of the State. In my opinion, the wisdom of the legislation of your ^{immediate} predecessors will be vindicated by the result, and the people will be at least partially relieved from the taxation consequent upon the advances of the State to this work.

There are some, I know, who are opposed to the completion of the canal, upon the ground that a portion of the trade which legitimately belongs to our commercial emporium, would be thereby withdrawn to the District of Columbia.

This argument concedes that the canal, when completed, will relieve the State, for the State being entitled to the entire tolls of the canal, it is manifest that any amount of transportation on it, which could operate injuriously to Baltimore, must necessarily yield a corresponding revenue to the State, and the issue which is raised by this argument is, whether the people of the State will submit to perpetual taxation to the amount of \$400,000, the annual interest on the investment in the canal, or risk this conjectural injury to Baltimore. But this view of the question is too narrow, and those who use it, are attempting to raise a question of antagonistic interest between the City of Baltimore and the residue of the State, which can be productive of no good, and which may be the occasion of much evil. There is no man in Maryland who can entertain a more thorough conviction than I do that the prosperity of Baltimore is essential to the prosperity of the residue of the State, and of the equal truth of the converse of the proposition, that the prosperity of the residue of the State is equally essential to the prosperity of Baltimore. I am therefore convinced, that any policy which would paralyze the energies of the one would operate destructively upon the interest of the other, and it follows that no system of legislation can be right, which looks exclusively separately to the interest of either.

The people of Maryland when, through their representatives, they entered upon the system of internal improvement, in the prosecution of which the public debt has been incurred, designed to develop the resources of the whole State. The system was not devised - this immense outlay of the public treasure was not designed solely to develop the mineral resources of Allegheny County, or to afford to the farmers of the upper country a more accessible or better market, or to throw into the lap of Baltimore the rich products of that fertile region - these were mere incidents of development, the mere consequences of the system - looked to only as incidents to the great object of the Statesmen who originated this system.

The people, in approving of the system devised, looked beyond the limits of Maryland for the sources of wealth & prosperity which was commensurate with the magnitude of their undertaking,