

and intelligent officers, after a long agony, been safely brought to a state of completion; which if it does not fully realize the calculation of the original (and, in my humble judgment extravagant and baseless) policy, which designated the Ohio river as its western terminus, nevertheless, cannot fail to become the fruitful source, in time, of great wealth to the state, in the development of her inexhaustible mineral treasures. For, who can weigh the mountains, and estimate their value? who shall set limits to the hidden stores of nature? From her highest peak, to her very foundations, Alleghany County is wealth. She is the undeveloped treasury of the state; and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal must necessarily be her main distributing artery. The other lesser, yet highly important works of internal improvement, already begun to feel the impulse of prosperity, and will, no doubt, through the intelligent management of their respective directors, ultimately realize the hopes of the people. Thus, Maryland has reason for gratulation. If an argument, beyond the stern obligations of duty, was required to induce her to continue her tax system, as far as it may appear necessary for the entire preservation of the public faith, it could be found in the present condition, and the certain prospects, of her great works. Whilst, therefore, I shall lend every aid to reduce the burdens of taxation, wherever and whenever such reduction is manifestly compatible with our obligations, I shall likewise regard it as my first duty to cooperate with the Legislature and the people, in maintaining the honor, dignity, and integrity of the state.

But, Maryland, ever true to the spirit of her history, from the days, when the bold energy of her Pilgrim fathers first hewed down the primeval forest, to the times that tried men's souls, in the crucible of the revolution, has not remained satisfied with the simple expansion of her physical greatness and power. It was not enough to build rail-roads and dig canals. Essential as it is to minister to the material wants of men, there is a loftier duty, which a nation owes to itself and to mankind. That duty, has been, in an especial manner, imposed by Divine Providence upon the people of this Union, and of each state thereof. It is, indeed their high commission; and, according to the measure of their faithfulness in the discharge of their obligations, will be meted out to them the blessings of national prosperity. As the privilege of their mission is great, so would the penalties of their derelictions be momentous. It is the destiny of this Nation, by wisdom and justice, to ameliorate the institutions of society, as far as the inherent imperceptibility of human nature will admit of. This is my belief; for, I am not disposed to attribute solely to the virtue and uninspired sagacity of men, the extraordinary success which has attended this Republic, since the hour of its foundation. It is not sufficient, therefore, that we enjoy the immunities of a democratic form of government; but in the spirit of enlightened progress, it is our duty to aim, at a constant approximation, in practice, to the maxims of the republican theory. Nearly all admit and cherish the doctrines, that, in the original organization of society, each individual surrenders just but so much of natural right, as is required for the general welfare and good government of the whole body politic; that, the greatest good of the greatest number, is the only true test, which can be applied, in estimating how far the governmental policy adopted, may conform to, or depart from the implied terms of the social compact; that from necessity and right, the power of the government must rest in the will of the majority of the people, as it would be unreasonable to confer it upon the minority; but, that, for the protection of the minority from the impulsive tyranny of numbers (without throwing them back upon the right of revolution under excessive grievance,) it is just and expedient to restrain the arbitrary will of the majority within express constitutional limits; that in the ultimate analysis, however, the majority must rule, because they have the right and the power to alter the form of government, or establish another in its stead, else the rights and power are no where lodged; and, therefore, that although