

lands, or any such claim of jurisdiction over the said lands, or the inhabitants thereof."

Such was the position of Maryland—a position not assumed by the action of mercenary motives, because at that period, the most sanguine scarcely hoped that the subject of the controversy would be realized to the union—but because a high moral conviction of duty, would not permit the sages of the State, to abandon the assertion of her rights, though in the chances of a doubtful war, the State herself might fall and her claims be forever extinguished.—Your committee may be permitted here, to indicate the contrast Maryland now presents to the truth, firmness and pride of her position then.

No enemy is on our coast—universal peace is shedding its benign influence over our efforts—leaving to industry and enterprise, an unimpeded path to successful results. Her gigantic and magnificent schemes of Internal Improvement, undertaken in part, with a view to the support she would receive from the General Government, obstructed in their progress by fiscal embarrassments—her treasury almost exhausted—her general revenues inadequate to the maintenance of her public faith; at this, the time of her need, when she so strongly requires all the aid she can of right demand—we find her chief executive officer, abandoning a right sustained in the midst of calamitous war, and volunteering the opinion, that the assertion of it in the only practicable mode, would be "a violation of the constitution of the United States." Without presuming to question the sincerity of this opinion, your committee would repeat their regret, that uncalled for by any constitutional obligation, his Excellency should have deemed it necessary, while depicting in the darkest and most sombre hues, our State distresses and difficulties, (for relief from which he suggests no remedy,) to deny a right of essential importance, and so consecrated in our memories, by our deep respect for the firmness, dignity and wisdom of our forefathers.

Reiterating the opinion, that the public lands of the Union were the common property of the States, by virtue of common conquest and treaty of peace; and that no relinquishment of claims was necessary to their absolute title, your committee now proceed to show, that the right of Maryland to a proportionate distribution of the proceeds of the public lands, is not affected or impaired, by locating the absolute dominion of them in the States within whose chartered limits they were included