

tutional obligation," he has not suggested some mode of relief to the embarrassed treasury. It is a doctrine novel in the affairs of human conduct, that a disregard of pecuniary inducement and an elevation above the appeals of cupidity, should be construed into an abandonment of State pride, when, by a solicism in language, the pursuit of money is regarded as an evidence of the willingness to support the chivalry of our forefathers. We greatly mistake the intelligence which we believe justly belongs to the citizens of this State, if they fail to perceive that it is intended to win Maryland from the high ground which she has always proudly occupied, of resisting the "rapacious spirit" which seeks to share the spoils incident to distribution. by changing her position from fearless assertion that the lands "should be considered as common property," because now, in her embarrassments, is extended the bribe of a golden placebo. The undersigned yield to none in their veneration for the deeds of valor achieved by the arms of Maryland in the contest of the Revolution, and would cheerfully abide the trial before the people of this State, whether the relinquishment of distributive shares betrays any want, on their part, of the characteristic virtues of our forefathers; or whether it was even considered, in Maryland, a high position to endanger the Union by refusing to sign the articles of confederation. until she had secured the claims which should, in in after times, save her from insolvency. Is it not manifest, on the contrary, that her sense of right was shocked, and her delicate sense of honor wounded, that in the National Councils the scramble should begin, which now is to be carried out, as to the respective amounts each State is to receive of the waste territory, when the whole had been won from a common enemy, by the bravery alike of all. We are free to declare that, if the views submitted by the majority of the committee did control the councils of Maryland, and induce her to withhold her consent till the latest hour, we would seek to veil rather than unfold that portion of her history, but we are strong in the belief that the committee will find that facts do not bear them out.

We shall now proceed at once to the investigation of the subject. The question of the public lands has been so recently discussed by men more capable than the undersigned of explaining the titles by which they are now held, that they do not deem it necessary to go back to the discoveries of John