

The United States acquired a title to the public domain by the treaty of peace, the deeds of cession, the purchase from France and Spain, and by extinguishing the prior titles of the Indian Tribes to all that portion of the soil which has been brought into the market. If the title thus acquired be not complete, the General Government cannot hold territory by any title; and that part of the constitution which provides, that Congress shall have certain power over the *territory belonging to the United States*, and that nothing in that instrument shall be so construed as to prejudice the claims of the United States, or any particular State, is a perfect nullity because no such claim could possibly exist.

It is now contended that the limited States have no claim, that they are acting merely as a trustee; that, in that capacity they must continue to purchase the Indian titles, to survey and sell the land, defray all expenses and pay the whole gross proceeds into the treasuries of the different States.

And all this is required of the General Government, when it is contended by the advocates of the distribution, that the National Treasury is in a state of bankruptcy; when it is admitted by all, that the national revenue is not more than equal to the annual expenditure; and when our differences with Great Britain may soon make it necessary to place the whole country in a state of defence. If the States had the power of conferring or forcing a trust of this kind upon a foreign enemy, they might safely expect a continuance peace; for no nation could venture to encounter their hostility, while threatened with the dreadful penalty of becoming their trustee.

The majority of the committee, in describing the position of Maryland, proudly remark, that a 'high moral conviction of duty would not permit the sages of the State to abandon her rights through the chances of a doubtful war—the State herself might fail, 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.'

Throughout their report, the committee endeavor to show, that the Governor has abandoned the high position occupied by the sages of the State; and that his message presents a melancholy contrast to the dignified attitude assumed by themselves. As the undersigned concur in the opinions expressed in the message, they consider it their duty to show that the policy,