

had their day in this and other countries. Public opinion is assuming an healthier tone, and the suspicion of the people is being aroused to the grossness of the many delusions which have been practiced upon them so much to their loss. Every patriot ought to congratulate himself on the change, as it involves not only the property and morals of the people but the very vitality of the Republican institutions of the country.

So incautiously was our enormous debt contracted, such little inquiry made as to the true character of the works in which the State is so deeply interested, that it might safely be inferred by a stranger, not acquainted with their secret history, that the debt was contracted and the works undertaken, under the belief that the people would never be called upon to pay. Indeed it may be averred without fear of successful controversy, that the great body of the people of the State were led into the belief that they would not only be relieved from all liability in the shape of taxes, but that on the contrary, long before this time the various works of internal improvement in which the State is engaged, would be the source of considerable revenue. This belief can no longer exist in the minds of any but enthusiasts. The time fixed for the completion of the works in which the State is so much involved has long since elapsed. The statements upon which the State acted are shown by facts to be untrue, and all the wild and visionary notions of making them a source of revenue to the State, exploded by the heavy tax which the State is called upon to impose upon her citizens.

That such a state of things would follow the inconsiderate expenditure of the people's money, might and ought to have been foreseen by those entrusted with the guardianship of the people's treasure and the State's credit. They had been warned by many, whose warning ought to have been heeded, but whose counsels were regarded as the promptings of imbecility.

Early in the history of our country, the immortal author of the Declaration of Independence, the sage and statesman, the friend of civil and religious liberty, Thomas Jefferson, called the attention of his countrymen to the subject, and solemnly warned them if they would preserve their independence, that they "must not let their rulers load them with perpetual debt." "We must make our election," says he, "between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude. If we run into such debts as that, we must be taxed in our meat and in our drink, in our necessaries and in our comforts, in our labour and our amuse-