

into by one generation, to be fulfilled by another. This being the case, the instances in which, and the purposes for which a public debt may be contracted, ought to be pointed out, distinctly as possible, in the Constitution.

As necessarily connected with the subject of the public debt and internal improvements of the State, the attention of the Legislature is invited to the law passed at December session, 1840, prescribing the mode in which all agents and directors, intended to represent the State in the joint stock companies, shall be appointed and continued in office. To appreciate the purpose, intent and effect of this law, a few preliminary observations are indispensable.

It is known everywhere, that prior to 1836 the Governor of Maryland was elected by joint ballot of the two Houses of the Legislature. It is equally well known, that at that time, such was the unjust principle of apportionment, adopted in the distribution of the members of the Legislature to the several counties and cities, that a very small minority of the people had perfect controul of both branches. This took necessarily and entirely out of the hands of the majority, the whole executive and legislative power of the State. For a long series of tedious years, the majority continued to remonstrate against this anti-republican and tyrannical organization of the powers of government. Their petitions were not heeded, although the Legislature was especially clothed with power under the Constitution to remodel and amend it, so as to adapt its provisions to changes, which its framers foresaw, when they were fashioning it more than half a century ago, would take place in the distribution of the wealth and population of the State. Wearied at last with merely petitioning for a surrender of usurped power, exercised as it often was most unjustly and oppressively, the representatives of the majority of the people, the patriotic and glorious nineteen senatorial electors, in strict conformity with the very language of the Constitution, devised and executed a movement, intended and well designed to force, if not an entire surrender of inalienable rights, at least some compromise of conflicting claims. The movement was succeeded by amendments to the Constitution, re-organizing the executive and legislative departments of the government. The people were authorized by direct vote to elect a chief magistrate, clothed with all the executive powers which his predecessors had possessed. The House of Delegates was new modeled, so as to make it approximate more nearly than it had done, a body where the popular will could be reflected. The members were also re-apportioned amongst the counties and the city of Baltimore, but neither wealth nor population was made the basis of representation. An arbitrary rule was adopted under which, the large counties and the city of Baltimore have five, and the smallest counties have three delegates. The Senate was changed, so as to dispense with the agency of electors, each county and the city of Baltimore having power to chose one mem-