

State relief, and it is becoming alike to the Executive and to your committee, who are forced to dissent from his opinions, that their argument of reply should be direct and explicit. We then propose, with all that deference that is due to the opinions of the Chief Magistrate of Maryland, to present to the House the reasons that have influenced us to conclude, that the measure attacked, (should it receive the sanction of the Congress of the Union,) would neither encroach upon the limits, which confine the national power, nor subject the people of the Union to the evils presaged upon its adoption.

His Excellency offers neither argument or sanction of authority to demonstrate the unconstitutional character of the measure. With him it is adjudicated conclusion, a palpable truth, which illustration would only obscure and reasoning confuse. Your committee are neither entitled by political experience or official position, to meet assertion merely by equivalent denial, and in this exigency they are fortunate in being able to invoke, in direct and collateral aid, authorities made reverent by all the sacred connections that unite the men of this age, with the associated fathers of their country.

Assumption of State debts by the National Government as an independent exercise of constitutional power---(without reference to the evident distinctions between the measure proposed and its assertion,) is not now in the opinion of your committee obnoxious to dispute, doubt, or cavil. Its recognition is co-existent with our civil Union. It is one of a series of measures, which served in the early experience of the constitution, to mark and illustrate the powers of the government---high in the list of those practical constructions of the national compact, which make lucid and intelligible distinctions, which the dust of time and the strifes of party have obscured and involved. Its assertion is connected with an epoch in national history, brilliant with the wisdom and the virtues before which, in the mind of England's Demosthenes paled the brightness of all ancient glory. The act of 1790 assuming the debts of the States to the extent of \$21,500 00, was passed in a congress in which sat Carroll and Ames, and Gerry and Madison---it was recommended by Hamilton, and approved by Washington. It was the creation not of obligation but choice. The debts were assumed not because, their liquidation was guaranteed either by the articles of confederation or the constitution, but because such provision "would be greatly conducive to an orderly, economical and effectual arrangement of the public finances," (sect. 12, act of 1790.) The National debt more than Fifty-four Millions of Dollars, was provided for because, "justice and the support of public credit" required a fulfilment of the engagements of the *United States*. (Preamble to the act.) No words could more clearly express the distinct motives influencing Congress, to provide both for State and National indebtedness, without blending them in one common obligation. "Justice and the support of credit," prompted provision for the national debt, "economical and orderly arrange-