

standard of its future productiveness. Though the country has not yet recovered from the paralysis its every interest suffered, from the fostered extravagance of 1836, yet we are gradually regaining a healthy and vigorous internal strength; the evils of the past are disappearing before the industrial energies of the people—monetary facilities are increasing—the population rapidly enlarging, while the fertility and vastness of the public domain, offers more ample theatre for successful industry, more open paths to civil distinction, than the crowded and worn areas of the old States.

Two periods, the extremes of forced, unnatural speculation and depression will illustrate our views. In 1836, the proceeds of the public lands amounted to \$25,167,833; in 1841, \$1,363,090, any rational medium, looking to the improvement now steadily progressing would support the position of the committee—already we have auxiliary data, the Secretary of the Treasury estimates the revenue from public lands for 1844, at \$2,250,000, a rapid increase upon the return of 1841. But admit error in this hope, still taxation by the General Government is not necessary. There is a resource, alternative, constitutional, less oppressive and involving in its results other benefits to Maryland—a revision of the tariff, an increase of duties to the point of necessary revenue for all purposes, a narrower circle of free articles. In 1783, Mr. Madison recommending a tax on imports, wrote, “taxes on consumption are always least burdensome, because they are least felt, and are born too by those who are both able and willing to pay them; that of all taxes on consumption, those on foreign commerce are most compatible with the genius and policy of free States.” With the very view to this source of national supply, the States surrendered to the General Government, all power of import duties.

It is the primary resort of constitutional revenue, the least burthensome of all popular contributions to government support, falling in just effect upon voluntary ability. He who buy's not pay's not, this tax is not the necessary concomitant of successful labor—luxury of taste, refinement of habit, social indulgence, these chiefly pay. Why should we turn from this source of relief to seek in burthens upon necessitous labor, the revenue they should furnish. Danger to the Union! the committee deem not so lightly of the patriotism or wisdom of their united brethren, to believe, that hazard to the country is to spring from relief to the people. That all the multifarious advantages of this congregated strength are to be cast aside, because the government resorts to a constitutional remedy for its necessities; and we have yet to learn, that in the history of this nation a tariff for revenue has ever been the parent of sectional jealousy or distrust. We go further, speaking as Marylanders to Maryland; we denounce the existing system as iniquitous—as a legal spoliation upon the industry of her people. The spirit of the constitution is equality of burthen; it admits not of favoritism, it embodies no prejudice, its very letter directs “that duties on imposts and excises shall be uniform.” The powers of the Government should be so exercised as to conform to this spirit, and by internal