

Alabama, characterised the rightful relation of the Federal Government to the lands, to be that of "a trustee with the power and the duty of disposing of the public lands in a liberal and equitable manner."

We have contended that the lands are not a legitimate source of revenue to the General Government, and challenge the clause in the Constitution, that would cover such claim—again we invoke authority. In 1832, Mr. King says, "the Custom Houses are the true sources of federal revenue," asserting "that the public debts being then paid, the public lands are entirely released from the pledge they were under to that object, and are free to receive a new and liberal destination for the relief of the States in which they lie." Mr. Buchanan advocating a distribution of the proceeds, places it in part upon the ground that "it would draw off from the General Government this *eccentric source of revenue*, and distribute it among the States. We should then be left where the *Constitution intended to place us*." (G.) Cessions of the lands, have lately been strenuously advocated, to the States within which they lie, by Calhoun, Sevier, Walker, etc. (H.) And from the commencement of the Government down, they have been treated as a fund ready of application for partial and individual purposes, when the Constitution forbade them to touch for such objects the revenues of the Government. (I.) We deny that Congress had the right so to deal with the ceded lands, but their reiterated actions sufficiently determine their view of the relation of the Government to the public lands. Education within State limits—internal improvement—donations from gratitude or pity—human misfortunes beyond the limits of the Union—all have found in the caprice of Congress ample relief and aid in this fund, from subservience to which the Constitution had guarded the "rightful" revenues of the Government. We close with the authority of one, whose claims to the gratitude of the whole country for military services, are in the opinion of a large party, paralleled by eminence of civil capacity—General Jackson in 1832 thus writes, "As the lands may now be considered as released from this pledge, (the debt) the object for which they were ceded having been accomplished, it is in the discretion of Congress to dispose of them in such way as best to conduce to the quiet, harmony and general interest of the American people." Since that period—since by the redemption of the specific pledge, the ultimate and resulting uses to the States became active—the Government has received and appropriated more than Seventy Millions from the lands—(J.) finding in their abundance, a fund for public extravagance, it would be scarcely too harsh to describe as wanton, if not shameless profligacy—much of it has been wasted, in objects of which the uses were not apparent—far too much squandered, by public officers, who found in their devotion to party a slowness to detect, if not immunity for offence. It has been of that evil to Government of which it now feels the consequence—leading to idle and expensive