

We claim it because in our difficulties, justice to the State requires that all her resources should be gathered to the relief of her people, and addressing the Government as the trustee of State funds, not too faithfully administered, we ask, that by the aid of her credit, based upon those funds, our own property should be applied in the discharge of our own liabilities.

We prefer it to annual distribution, because the relief is more immediate and perfect; more efficient and permanent guarding by the sacredness of a contract against the fluctuation of party legislation.

We prefer it—because it will protect the States and the Union from the wrong and danger to both of partial and unjust cessions—we have been already warned that the young giant of the West is looking to her rapidly augmenting strength, for adequate power to dictate to the Congress the terms upon which cessions of the “common fund” to the States, including it shall be made,—and names high in the scale of popular regard, have already lent the sanction of their influence to this proposed violation of the rights and interests of the older States.

It works no wrong to the non-indebted States, because their proportional share in the common issue is embraced by the plan.

It creates no National debt—because the debt it proposes to relieve already exists.

That the resources of the country are fully adequate to its discharge, in the modes argued for is not matter of speculation, but the verification of fact. In less than seventeen years from the close of the last war, more than one hundred and twenty millions of dollars, with accruing interest have been paid, with less of National, State, and individual distress than is now felt, even in the imperfect discharge of State liabilities.

We advocate it—because we believe, that its adoption is fraught not merely with relief to the States, but with benefit to the Government—in confining the Government to legitimate sources of revenue and limiting the evil of national extravagance.

For these reasons, imperfectly elaborated, your committee, dissenting from the opinions of the executive, recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to urge upon that body the issue of two hundred millions of Government stock bearing an interest of three per cent, payable at the Treasury in Washington, and to distribute the same among the several States of this Union, in proportions, graduated by the federal representation, specifically pledging for the redemption of the stock and the payment of the interest, the public domain. (L.)

Resolved, That this failing, they urge upon the Congress the actual division in just proportion of the public lands among the