

done, in debate upon the floor. They will only here say, that in the opinion of a majority of the committee, it will effect the purpose for which it is honestly designed, and perhaps they may be excused for remarking, that those who urge objections against it, ought at least to present some other scheme, more perfect and efficacious. The bill, they believe, if it become a law, will secure the collection of the taxes, and when that shall once be effected, and the whole revenue system fairly put in operation, the great difficulty in our way will be surmounted, and the path made easy, to the adoption of such other measures, as may be found to be necessary, for meeting punctually the demands of the public creditor.

The committee cannot bring themselves to believe, that any argument or appeal, is necessary to be addressed to the members of the Legislature of Maryland, to convince or persuade them, of the stem and imperative duty of meeting with fidelity the claims of the public creditor. To suppose such necessity, is to infer an utter disregard of the plainest principles of fair dealing, and common honesty, and of course the supposition is wholly inadmissible, in a report addressed to the body, whose organ we are.

The people of Maryland, have not even the flimsy pretext, which is urged with reference to the debts of at least one of the States, that it was contracted in opposition to the forms of the constitution.

Mississippi insists, that with respect to a part of her debt, the form of contracting, as prescribed by her constitution, was not observed, and upon that ground, she denies her obligation to pay it; but with reference to the residue, she not only recognises its validity, but has passed tax laws of great efficacy and vigor, punctually to discharge it, according to the terms of her engagement.

The ground upon which she disavows the binding force of part of her debt, we consider altogether untenable, but still to some minds there may seem to be a plausible pretext for the course she has taken. But with us in Maryland, the invention of man can devise no excuse, for departing for one moment, from the plain path of honor, and honesty. No ingenuity or sophistry can raise a doubt of the direct and palpable obligation of the State, to pay to the last dollar all she has borrowed, principal, and interest. To refuse to do so, or to delay, without the most overruling necessity, a resort to all the means in her power, to redeem her obligations to the uttermost farthing, would be voluntarily, to consign her name to everlasting infamy.

No name of sufficient authority to arrest the public attention, has ventured to express a doubt, of the perfect capacity of the State to contract debt, whilst jurists and judges of the most exalted reputation, have concurred in affirming her power to do so. The wretched sophistry, that this power is denied the Legislature by the 13th article of the Declaration of Rights, is almost too preposterous to merit our notice.

It has been sometimes said, that our debt has been contracted by the borrowing of money for purposes of Internal Improvement,