

and that the language of the article referred to, does not authorise the levying of taxes for such an object. The provision is, that every person, except paupers, "ought to contribute his proportion of public taxes for the support of government," and it has sometimes been obscurely hinted, rather than asserted, that the laying of taxes to pay debts, contracted for the internal improvement of the country, is not for the support of government. It would be strange indeed, if the improvement of the internal condition of the country, were not the legitimate exercise of the powers of the government. Those who assert the doctrine must maintain, not only, that the State has no power to do this, but that she cannot communicate the power to others, for it could hardly be insisted, that she can impart faculties to others, which are denied to herself, and yet from the adoption of the constitution to the present time, the Legislature has been in the unquestioned exercise of the power of incorporating companies to make roads and canals. It is believed that, there does not exist a government in the world, without this power, and that it is indispensable to the welfare and prosperity of the people. —

Nor can the citizens of Maryland protect themselves, from the utmost severity of reproach, if they falter for one moment, in the path to which honor points, by the apology, that they have been involved in debt, without due notice and consideration. The system of borrowing money for Internal Improvement, originated in 1827, and has continued without interruption, until 1839; with full notice to the people, and with their entire assent and approbation. The circumstances under which the eight million loan bill passed in 1835, give to it a force, and to all the obligations it imposes, a solemnity, which do not belong to ordinary acts of legislation. The Legislature then assembled, impressed with the weight of the responsibility which rested upon them, and desirous of consulting the people in reference to a subject of such vast importance, resolved to adjourn, to meet again in extra Session in May, that in the interval, they might ascertain the will of those, whose interests were so vitally concerned in the result. They accordingly did so adjourn, mingled together, and consulted with their constituents, and coming again, fresh from the source of power, and clothed with their authority, passed the law, under which this large addition was made to the public debt. To whisper a doubt of the validity of a debt so contracted, bespeaks a contempt for all those principles of common honesty, and common justice, upon which not only, all our most cherished rights, but the very frame work of the social system itself depends.

If the State may set aside these engagements, she may with equal propriety, violate any other contract into which she has entered. She may revoke the grants, upon which the title to all the lands in the State depend, and issue others for the same lands, after having received a full equivalent for them, from those to whom the grants were originally made. To maintain such a doctrine, is to tear up by the roots that, which lies at the foundation of all that