

levied by Congress, when no longer needed for the administration of the General Government. Those who enact revenue laws for the Union cannot, with justice, consider the separate interests, or apparent necessities of the several States. The minority in the confederacy have a right to be protected from the influence of any such considerations. The passage of laws, by a majority, even of the representatives of the people, which should be intended to produce a surplus of revenue, to be applied to discharge the debt which the States brought upon themselves, would be a palpable violation of the first principles of the Constitution, and a tyrannical exercise of ungranted power. It will not be denied, that an express grant of such a power would have led to the rejection of the Federal Constitution, when it was submitted to the States for adoption. An attempt to exercise it without such grant would be productive, immediately, of consequences that no good citizen could desire to witness. Our Union, it cannot be too often repeated, was founded on compromises of conflicting local interests. It must be preserved by a faithful adherence to the same governing principles. Where a surplus of revenue had incidentally accumulated in the general Treasury, without direct violence to the rules of interpretation by which the meaning of the Federal Constitution is to be ascertained, some contrariety of opinions existed as to the mode in which the money thus brought into the Treasury was to be put into circulation. But there was then an avowed concurrence of opinion as to the duties of those who had enacted the laws occasioning such accumulations,—to reduce or repeal all taxes not clearly necessary for the legitimate and economical exercise of the constitutional authority under which they were established. Those views and opinions may not be now very acceptable to a people heavily burthened with taxes. They are expressed, notwithstanding, under a conviction of their perfect truth, with an earnest desire to remove forever from the minds of our constituents, hopes that cannot be, and ought not to be realized; and under a deep sense of obligation to the whole country, it being the duty of all authority to co-operate in harmonizing, instead of combining to bring into further conflict, the antagonistic interests and institutions of the Union.

The law passed at December session, 1842, for the sale of the State's interest in the several internal improvement companies, remains a dead letter upon the statute book. No offer has been made which the Treasurer felt justified in accepting. In the enactment of this law, such violence is done to a preceding solemn engagement of the State, that there was probably no reference at the time, to previous legislation on the same subject. By the 10th section of the act of March session, 1841, chap. 23, a deliberate promise was made to keep at the Treasury an accurate account of the revenue paid by the city of Baltimore, Howard District, and the several counties, and to transfer to them respectively, an equivalent amount of the stock of the State in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, whenever that company is prepared to make