

the binding obligation of the laws which authorised it—and they have seen at a later period, that the enactments, which the legislature has had recourse to, to pay the debt, have received the sanction of the supreme appellate tribunal of the State. Under these circumstances, to doubt the intention of the people to discharge the obligations contracted in their behalf, by their duly accredited agents, with their full knowledge, and express assent, would be imputing to them designs, at war with the unbroken tenor of their acts, and unwarranted by any thing in their past or present history.

It is true, that differences of opinion have existed, and continue to exist, in relation to the most just and equitable mode, of raising the necessary amount of revenue. Each interest feeling the pressure upon itself, is prone to think, that others are less burdened than themselves, and the jealousy resulting from this state of feeling, has embarrassed the efforts of those, who have striven so earnestly to place the State in the condition, which all her citizens desire her to occupy. But notwithstanding these embarrassments, steady, if not rapid advances have been made, towards the great object, of augmenting the revenue to the demands upon the Treasury; and when that shall have been fully accomplished the gloom which now pervades the public mind, will begin to disappear. The committee entertain no doubt, that much of the discontent which now exists to the system of taxation, results from the fact, that its avails are insufficient to pay the interest upon the public debt. The people consider, and with some apparent reason, that sacrifices are unnecessary, if the object for which they are made cannot be attained. Why they ask, are these demands made upon them, if the honor of the commonwealth, to maintain which they are urged, cannot be preserved. But let that honor be once retrieved, and shine with its original brightness,—place the State again upon the proud eminence she once occupied, when her engagement or her promise to pay money, was considered equivalent to performance; let the people in a word see, that the contributions they are making to the public coffers, are bringing with them, the rich harvest, of universal confidence, and general esteem; and there can be no doubt, that their offerings will be heaped upon the altar, with willingness and in abundance. To place the State in this condition, and that the people may enjoy the gratification which a punctual discharge of her engagements would afford them, the committee have reported several bills to bring additional revenue into the treasury.

Should these bills become laws, it is believed the State, will, at an early day, be able to resume payment, and continue regularly to pay the interest upon her debt, thereafter. Some of these bills have been reported with the general consent of the committee; whilst others, or more properly speaking one of them, with their permission only. It would be arrogant, and presumptuous to say, that this particular measure, is the best, which could be devised, to meet the deficiency in the revenue; but it is very certain, that none other has been suggested, to supply its place, which could