

debt, would make the sum of \$715,421 $\frac{2}{8}\%$ to be raised annually to meet the demands upon the treasury.

Gentlemen, I feel the responsibility of the position we mutually occupy. I believe that now is the *accepted time*, and that to you is accorded the distinguished privilege of redeeming the honor and credit of our State. There is not a citizen of the State who is worthy to be called her Son, who does not feel shame at the position she now occupies, and who will not hail with applause your *efficient action* to place her *now* and for the *future* in the position of *right* she should occupy. The people of Maryland were never in a more prosperous condition. Those of her citizens who are engaged in Agriculture have been blessed, through divine Providence, with abundant harvests; and the *increased* price which has been obtained for the grain crops of the State would alone equal the public debt. In evidence of the prosperity of those engaged in commerce and the mechanic arts it is only necessary to look to our commercial emporium (whose rapid strides towards commercial pre-eminence over her sister cities of the Union must gratify the pride of every Marylander) to witness an increase of wealth during the past few years equal to the quadruple of the debt of the State.

I propose, Gentlemen, in the further discharge of *my duty* to review the existing revenue laws, and recommend such legislation as will in my judgment, without inflicting unnecessary burthens upon the people, be adequate, if concurred in by you, to meet the future demands upon the treasury. The subject must I know, be uninteresting to many of you, from the detail necessarily incident to its consideration; but the superior importance of giving you full information upon *a subject* upon which your action will be of such vital consequence to the State, will satisfy you that I could not take any other than the course indicated without a departure from the path of duty and the sacrifice of *utility*, (the sole object of this communication) to your convenience.

The revenue laws are now scattered through many volumes of the laws of the State; they are in some respects inconsistent with each other, and certainly require amendment. I would, therefore, most respectfully suggest the propriety of digesting and embodying them in one enactment, that the officers and people of the State may distinctly understand the duties imposed on them.

The first of these laws to which I invite your attention is the "Income tax law," passed at December ses. 1841, ch. 325. In a large portion of the State the *assessment* under this law was not made, and in portions of the State where the assessments were made they were so partial in their character as to render the law exceedingly obnoxious to the people. The result is that this law during the past fiscal year was not enforced in the City of Baltimore, and but partially enforced even in the counties in which assessments had been made; and the revenue derived from it has not exceeded \$1,000. I am aware that by the supplemental act of December Sess. 1843. chap.