

teen cent direct tax would pay off before the first day of January 1874, the principal and interest of all the loans proposed to be made in the course of the next five years, under the bill which has been reported by your committee. If, contrary to our expectation, the United States tax should be continued beyond the year 1866, the Legislature assembling in that year could make such additional provision as would be necessary to meet it.

If the Congress should treble the present United States tax, the provisions of our bill would secure the means necessary for the years 1862 and 1863, and the Legislature assembling in 1864 could adopt further measures in order to comply with the requisitions of the General Government.

Your committee scarcely deem it necessary to enter into any argument, to show that the Legislature has the Constitutional power to make such a loan as is now proposed.— But as some cavil may be made on this point by those, whose sympathy with the originators and supporters of the secession rebellion, naturally incline them to oppose every possible obstruction to the successful prosecution of the war on the part of the General Government, it will not be considered out of place in this report, to say a few words in answer to the objection which may be anticipated.

The twenty-second section of the third article of our State Constitution, a section which in its structure and language is scarcely creditable to the Convention that framed it,—imposes the most rigid restrictions on the power of the Legislature to contract loans, yet concludes by giving it power to “contract debts to any amount that may be necessary for the defence of the State.” The State of Maryland, under the Constitution of the United States, has no power to “enter into any treaty, alliance or confederation,” cannot keep on foot an Army or Navy, or make war against any foreign nation. We cannot be attacked or invaded without the hostile act being an assault on and an invasion of the United States; and the United States cannot be at war, or invaded, without danger to Maryland as a constituent inseparable part of the great whole; so that the defence of the one is necessarily the defence of the other; and it is manifest that to supply means to the United States Government for the prosecution of a war in which it is engaged, is an act strictly within the meaning of our State Constitution.

But the prosecution of the present war is also most intimately connected with our immediate safety, and even necessary to the protection of our soil itself from invasion. Had not the armies of the Union been a barrier to the hosts assembled in arms at no great distance from the National Capital, our State would have been converted into a desolated battle ground, and we should have shared those horrors which Virginia now suffers, to which Missouri was so long a martyr, and from