Whigs, though justly chargeable with an equal portion of it himself, to visit with a very faint condemnation the doctrine of Repudiation and to speak in strong reprobation of that kind of currency which he himself has been the most active of any man in putting into circulation in the State.

There are other objections to this message, but we have already extended this article beyond what we had intended. We can only say that we hope that the Senate of Maryland will not be so weak as to place the agents of the State at the mercy of those, whose whole object seems to be to promote partizan views.

The recommendation of the message to allow the coupons of and interest on the State Bonds to be received in payment of taxes due will meet with general favor.

The Governor also condemns the judiciary system. The Herald of Freedom in commenting thereon gives the following palpable hit

"He refers to the salaries of the Judges in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Ohio, to show that the salaries of our Judges are too extravagant. This is all very well. But he might also have referred, and with a great deal more propriety, to the salaries of the Governors of those States, in proof of the fact that the salary of the Governor of this State is TOO HIGH by TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS But that would have been touching a very tender point, and we presume the Governor—forgetting that "charity begins at home"—purposely forbore mentioning it."

Congress.

JUDICIARY—PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The Oregon Bill having been postponed until tomorrow, another special order was taken up, and disposed of, being the Joint Resolution introduced some days since by Mr. Tappan of Ohio.

Mr. Tappan made a brief speech in behalf of his proposed amendment, in which he contended that the Constitutional provision having control in regard to the Judiciary, was against the spirit of our institutions, against the sovereignty of the people, against sound policy, against the interest of the Government, detrimental to the Judiciary itself, &c.

Mr. Smith of Conn. followed in a few words, but advancing the same opinions He said that it was necessary to have an independent Judiciary as well as an independent Legislature and Executive.—There was no reason why we should not have the one as well as the other, and we have never heard a reason given.

Mr. Berrien said if he could believe that any considerable number of the Senate were in favor of the proposition submitted, he might be willing to give some time to its consideration. Limited as the Senate was as to time and to business he could not consent to take up the time of the body. An independent Judiciary the Senator conceived to be the most important branch of the Government.—Amidst all the questions which had been discussed for many years past, there seemed to have been more reliance as there was more permanency in this branch of the Government. Without consuming any time Mr. B. was willing to record his vote. The Senate was also ready, and the following was the result: —Ayes—11, Noes—24.

The President then signed a number of Bills which have passed during the present session; having done which

THE EXCHEQUER PLAN

Before the Senate was called up, and upon intimation given by Mr. Tallmadge informally passed over.

After the passage of two private bills, and a pretty good day's work, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRSENTATIVES.

THE BANKRUPT LAW.

The States were called for resolutions.

Mr. Clifford, from Maine, submitted a resolution instructing the Committee on the Judiciary to report, *forthwith*, a bill to repeal the Bankrupt law; and he moved the previous question.

Mr. Briggs immediately moved that the resolution be laid upon the table.

Mr Clifford thereupon called for the yeas and nays, which were taken, and resulted—yeas 81, nays 110.

So the resolution was not laid upon the table

The question now recurred on seconding the demand for the previous question, which was taken by tellers, and the result was—ayes 91, noes 79. So there was a second.

The Speaker then asked, shall the main question be now put? Whereupon,

Mr. Barnard asked for the yeas and nays, which were ordered, & the result was—yeas 116, nays 88.

So the House decreed that the main question should be put.

The question was taken, and the House refused to lay the resolution on the table. Yeas 87, nays 105.

The resolution was finally adopted—yeas. 112, nays 81.

THE BANKRUPT LAW—AGAIN.

Mr. Tillinghast submitted a resolution, instructing the Committee on the Judiciary to append a proviso to the bill to repeal the Bankrupt law, that the repeal shall not effect any case in Bankruptcy pending or commenced previous to the repeal.

A motion was made to lay the resolution on the table; but it did not prevail—yeas 60, nays 112.

The resolution was then adopted, and the House adjourned.

January 17, 1843.

SENATE.

A memorial from the Western citizens was presented praying for the improvement of the navigation of the Western waters. There were 1500 signatures.—Mr. Linn asked for the reading of the memorial which set forth the necessities of the work. The memorial embodied a large number of facts upon this subject, and the presentation was followed by some remarks in favor of the object.

A resolution was offered by Mr. Merrick calling upon the Postmaster General for information in relation to mail contracts by Railroad.

The special order was called up at a late hour, being the Oregon Bill. The subject was informally passed over, however, on motion of Mr. Huntington, and the remainder of the day devoted to Executive business.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On motion of Mr. Green, it was resolved that the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of bringing in a bill appropriating $200,000 a year, commencing with the present year, and to be continued ten years, to be applied to the removal of obstructions on the Western waters, to be expended under the control of the Secretary of War and report to the House with the most convenient despatch.

Mr. Everett proposed a plan as a substitute for the Exchequer. Its main feature is for the Government to issue one hundred millions of stock based upon the public lands, to be distributed among the several States and Territories: to be issued in sums of from $5 to $640, and to be received in payment of four fifths of the price of public lands purchased: also authorising the issuing and re-issuing of fifteen millions of Treasury notes, of as low a denomination as five dollars. And he also attaches to this the plan of a fiscal agent submitted last year.

The substitute was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Fillmore, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill providing for the improvement of certain harbors and rivers, and the continuation of the Cumberland road; which was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. Barnard, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a bill to repeal the Bankrupt Law. The bill was read a first time, and the question being upon its second reading.

Mr. Barnard objected, on the ground that as the 109th rule expresses it, "no bill shall be read twice on the same day without the special order of the House."

Mr. Barnard then submitted another report, viz: to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary, with instructions to amend the existing Bankrupt Law, in the following particulars, 1. To repeal so much of it as allows voluntary bankruptcy; 2. Authorizing a majority of creditors to select assignees; 3. A majority of the creditors to assent to the discharge of the bankrupt.

A long talk took place by innumerable gentlemen as to what course of proceeding should be adopted; and whether Mr. Turney or Mr. Barnard was entitled the floor. Finally,

Mr. Wise asked what would be the effect of the previous question.

The Speaker replied to bring the House to a direct vote on the bill.

Mr. Wise. Then *I move the previous* question.

Mr. Barnard rose to a point of order, but it was not entertained.

The previous questions was then second yeas 92, noes 83.

Mr Barnard asked if the morning hour had expired.

The Speaker said it had; and

Mr. Barnard called for the orders of the day.

The Speaker then announced the bill to repeal the Bankrupt law, as reported by Mr. Everett heretofore.

This caused a general burst of laughter, as many had thought that the question was disposed of for to-day.

Mr. Wise inquired if the previous question had not been seconded on the former bill.

The Speaker said it had, and the question would come up to-morrow on ordering the main question.

Mr. Wise. "Take your time Miss Lucy."

Mr. Martial being entitled to the floor on Mr. Everett's bill to repeal the Bankrupt bill, moved the previous question: which was seconded by a vote of 110 to 28.

And the question was taken on the pending motion of Mr. Cushing to amend the proviso that the repeal should affect no cases, fines, penalties, &c. commenced and incurred before its repeal. The result was—yeas 148, nays 62.

So the amendment was adopted.

The question was now taken on the pending motion of Mr. Barnard to substitute for the bill another, precluding voluntary bankruptcy, and making the repeal take effect on the 4th of March next; not, however, to affect any case or penalties then existing.

The amendment was rejected—yeas 73 nays 136.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Objections was made to the third reading.

Mr Everett moved a suspension of the rule, and the motion prevailed.

And on the passage of the bill the the vote stood—yeas 140, nays 71.

So the bill was passed.

Mr, Profilt moved a reconsideration of the vote by which the bill was passed

Mr. Cushing obtained the floor on this motion and the House adjourned.

A GENTLEMAN.

Twelve marks, by which the opposite of a gentleman may be detected:—

1. He is early by the Church, and takes his stand as near the door as possible for the purpose of exhibiting himself, & displaying his colloquial powers.

2. Opens and shuts the door in a noisy manner, perchance to let the audience know that a person of consequence is coming.

3. Strides up the aisle with a heavy step, or rushes up the gallery stairs in so noisy and bustling a manner, as to disturb the whole congregation.

4. Contrives to come in after service is begun; if possible in prayer time.

5. Never gets up to give a seat to a stranger or aged person.

6. Takes his place at the outside of the seat, nearest the door, and never steps out into the aisle to let people pass, but makes them crowd by him.

7. Takes care to lie partly down, or get into some lounging, thoroughly clownish position.

8. Wipes the mud from his boots on his next neighbours pantaloons.

9. Frequently gets up and goes out in the midst of the service, not unfrequently obliging several persons to move, jostling some, and treading upon the toes of some of the others, and attracting the attention of all by the noise which accompanies his exit.

10. If he tarry till the service concludes, he is sure to get his hat, and put his hand upon the pew door while the benediction is pronouncing, and the moment it is finished, manifests the most indecent haste, as though he were rushing out of a theatre or other public place.

11. Stops at the door, or in the portico, and casts a stupid stare in the face of each person passing, especially the ladies.

12. Begins to talk loud, as soon as he gets into the open air, especially evenings

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 11, 1843.

Mr. Graves, chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred the order to enquire into the expediency of authorising the Treasurer to recall the three millions of State bonds issued under the eight million loan of 1835, for the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, at present in the hands of Barings, Brothers & Co. in London, reported that the said committee had made inquiry, as directed, of the President of said company, and obtained from him his views in relation thereto, declaring that the Legislature has no power to recall the bonds now in London. The committee was discharged from its further consideration, and the whole matter was referred to the committee on grievances and courts of justice.

On motion of Mr. Brown, the resolutions abridging the franking privilege of members of the Legislature, were taken up, passed, and sent to the Senate. [These resolutions repeal the former privilege, and allow members to receive free all papers, documents, letters, &c.; but prohibit the franking any matter, paper, &c. sent by them through mail.]

Mr Powder presented the petition of the stockholders of the Westminster Bank praying an extention of charter. Referred.

A resolution was passed and sent to the Senate, providing that no member or clerk of the Legislature, shall receive his per diem for any period over eight days absence from the city, unless by sickness or some other unavoidable circumstance. Adjourned.

The SENATE was occupied to-day for some time in Executive session I know of nothing done The bills from the house incorporating the Murray Institute, and the German Washington Beneficial Society of Baltimore, were passed.

January 12.

Mr. Graves, chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means,—to which had been referred the petitions from Carroll county, asking the repeal of the direct tax law, made an adverse report to the prayer of the petitioners.

The resolutions "abridging" the "franking" privilege of members of the Legislature, which passed yesterday, were again called up to-day, by reconsidering the vote of yesterday, and, the vote being taken upon them, they were rejected.

Mr. Sherwood of Talbot presented the petition of fifty three citizens of district No. 2, in Talbot county, praying a special act in reference to gates on public roads, &c in said county.

And the petition of sundry citizens of school district No 5, in election district No. 4, praying an alteration in the school law; changing the time of electing primary school trustees in Talbot county.

Severally read and referred

In the SENATE, the resolution from the House requesting our Senators and Representatives in Congress to report and vote for a bill transferring the stock held by the General Government in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to Maryland, was reported by Mr. Gaither, from the Committee to which it was referred with some unimportant modifications, and passed.

January 13.

The Speaker laid before the House letters from the Treasurer of the Western Shore, showing the number of (and salary of each) salaried officers of the State; and exhibiting the amount of stock (and its then market value) of the Banks of the State; and, stating that he has no source of information to enable him, in obedience to the order of the 10th inst. to furnish the amount of State taxes paid by the mining companies in Allegany county. Severally read, and referred.

Mr. Crain presented the proceedings of a meeting of a large number of citizens of Charles county, expressive of the pecuniary embarrassment of the times, and suggesting the propriety of passing a stay law.

Mr. C. said, in presenting either memorials or resolutions on the subject of the enactment, by the Legislature, of a stay law, he availed himself of the occasion to state disunctly that he was opposed to a stay law, believing it impolitic, and calculated to retard the prosperity of the State, and in its operation prejudicial to debtors themselves.

Mr. Semmes presented a petition of citizens of Prince George's county, praying the passage of a law to prevent other than citizens of Maryland from entering and destroying wild fowl in the creeks and harbors of this state. Referred.

Mr. Gallagher presented the memorial of the stockholders of the Western Bank, praying a reduction of its stock. Referred.

Mr. Powder presented several petitions of citizens of Carroll county, praying a repeal of the direct tax law. Referred.

Mr. Morsell submitted an order requiring the Committee on Inspections to inquire into the expediency of authorising the appointment of officers in the city of Baltimore to be styled Inspectors, Weighers and Measurers of Wheat. Adopted.

Also, to introduce a bill entitled a further supplement to the act authorising the appointment of inspectors and woodcorders, and regulating the cording of fire-wood brought by water to the city of Baltimore for sale, passed December session, 1816, ch. 199.

On motion of Mr. Grove, the Select Committee to whom had been referred the petitions praying investigation into the affairs of the Farmer's and Millers' Bank of Washington county, were directed to proceed to Hagerstown, and take such steps as fully to ascertain the condition of said bank, and to report at an early day to the Legislature.

Mr. Murray submitted the following:

"*Resolved*, &c. That the powers vested in the Commissioner of Loans in this State, and in the Treasurer of the Western Shore, by the 4th section of the Act passed at December session, 1839, ch. 33 be suspended until further action of this Legislature." [The power given the Commissioner by the section mentioned, requires him to dispose of the stock held by the state in the several banks, to be placed in the hands of the Treasurer, to be by him appropriated to paying the interest on the debt of the State.] Adopted.

IN SENATE.—The bill from the House, repealing the act directing the manner of appointing agents to represent the State in all joint stock companies in which the State is interested, was taken up and, after a brief discussion, was rejected.

January 14, 1843.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Treasurer showing the amounts ($841,221.25) charged to the Legislature, from 1827 to 1841 inclusive. Referred.

Mr. Hammond submitted the following:

'Whereas, the interest upon the currency debt of the State was paid to Oct. 1st, 1841, and the interest of the sterling debt was paid by the State up to the 1st July, 1841; and whereas, by the 5th sec. of the act of 1839, ch. 33, the Commissioner of Loans is directed semi-annually, in April and October of each year, to draw upon the Treasurer of the Western Shore for the amount of interest due upon the sterling debt, and all charges and duties, and to transmit the same to the Messrs. Barrings, Brothers & Co., of London, who are thereby constituted the agents of the State for the payment of the interest on its public debt; and whereas, the object of said act was to provide for the payment of the public debt of 1840 and 1841, *as is declared and enacted* by the 4th sec. of said act; and whereas, both the resolutions No. 14, passed December session, 1840, and the resolution No. 3, passed April, 1841, directed that money should be borrowed to liquidate the interest accruing upon the public debt in the year 1841, and of course in aid of the act of 1839, ch. 33, which had failed to realise the amount of money contemplated by those, who directed it, and whereas, no other or further direction has been given to the Commissioners of Loans as to the manner or time of paying the public debt due in London; and whereas, the said Commissioner of Loans did between the 1st day of Oct. 1841, and the 1st Jan. 1842, draw upon the treasurer of the Western Shore for $56,379,43, on account of interest due in London upon the public debt on the 1st Jan. 1842, and of that sum did on said account, transmit to the State's agents in London $50,666 66, including $6,222 22 premium for exchange and commission, and did pay, at the loan office in Baltimore, upon said interest so due in London as aforesaid $5,712 77, including premium for exchange, therefore.

'Resolved that the said Commissioner of loans in drawing for the sum of money aforesaid, and the said Treasurer in paying over the same, acted in conformity to the expressed requirements of the laws." Read and laid upon the table under the rule.

Also, submitted the following: 'Ordered, that the Commissioner of Loans be directed to report to this House what amount of money or coupons was transmitted by him to London to meet the interest upon the public debt due in London on the 1st Jan. 1842, at what time the same was drawn from the Treasury; under what law the same was drawn and transmitted; and whether the said money was borrowed by him for the use of the State under resolution No. 3, passed March session, 1841." Adopted.

Mr. Owens submitted the following: "Ordered, that the Committee on Ways and Means report for the consideration of this House, on or before Monday, 23d ult. by bill or otherwise, such plan or plans as they may deem best calculated to secure the more effectual collection of the direct tax." Adopted.

Mr. Risteau, from the committee on claims, made a report in reference to the Treasurer's report. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Gallagher, from the committee on Corporations' reported a supplement to an act incorporating the Western Bank of Baltimore. Read by special order, passed, and sent to the Senate.

On motion of Mr. Buskirk, the supplement to the act providing for repair and keeping in good order that part of the National Road passing through Maryland was taken up, passed, and sent to the Senate. Adjourned.

IN SENATE.

Mr. Potts from the Committee on Judicial Proceedings, reported a bill entitled a supplement to an act enlarging the powers of the high court of chancery.—Red the first time.

Also a bill entitled a further supplement to an act to establish magistrates' courts in the several counties of the State. Read, by special order, passed, and sent to the House.

The resolution from the House limiting the absence of members of the Legislature to eight days, was rejected.

House bills for the relief of Benjamin S. Ireland, and a supplement to an act authorizing the drawing of a lottery for the benefit of female education, was assented to.

January 16.

A communication was received from the Executive, enclosing a report] from the Board of Directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, with copies of correspondence between said company and the Messrs. Baring and Co. in relation to certain bonds.—Referred.

The House then adjourned.

Nothing of importance was done in the Senate to-day.

January 17.

The resolution submitted by Mr. Risteau, looking to a reduction of the salaries of officers and agents in all Improvement companies, was taken up, and passed.

In Senate.—Mr. Scott submitted a preamble and resolutions requesting our Senators and Representatives in Congress to vote for a repeal of the United States Bankrupt act. Referred.

RELIEF OF THE STATES.

LETTER II.

FROM THE HON. WILLIAM COST JOHNSON, TO COL. CHARLES CARROLL. OF MARYLAND.

Hall of Representatives,

Washington, Dec. 21th, 1842.

Dear Sir,—Although I have not proposed a measure for the Assumption of State debts upon the principle of the law of 1790, as has sometimes been asserted I have not the shadow of a doubt on my mind that the General Government has the power to assume the debts of the States whenever, in its judgement, the public interest should require it, or the necessities of the States should strongly demand its exercise. It is too manifest to be debated that Congress has precisely the same power now, and can exert as enlarged a discretion in its exercise, as when it assumed the debts of the States in 1790.—And pending the discussion of that question in Congress, the power of the General Government was hardly mooted. To assert that Congress has no power to extend aid to States almost bankrupt, and to a people who are in the midst of ruin and distress, is not only to declare the Government a failure, but to alienate from it the respect of the States, and the cherished affections of the people. The States created the Government as their agent, and the people adopted it because they thought that their individual interest would be advanced and the general welfare promoted. The great and illustrious men who framed the constitution, and first administered its vital and salutary principles over the States and the people, passed and sanctioned the law which assumed the debts of the States. The principal and almost only hostility to the measure arose from the fact that subsequently bondholders, who had purchased outstanding State bonds and State issues at great depreciation in value, were placed on equal terms with original holders.

Mr. Smith, of South Carolina, Fisher Ames, of Massachusetts, and Mr. Madison, were the most zealous advocates of assumption,—Mr. Madison maintaining assumption, but urging some classification of the State debts.

When the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole upon Mr. Hamilton's report, which had been made under an order of the House, Mr. Smith, of South Carolina, who led in the debate, in order to test the sense of the House upon the various measures recommended by the Treasury, submitted the following series of resolutions, which he advocated with great ability:

Resolved, That Congress ought not to adjourn, until they have adopted such measures as will make an adequate provision for the public debt.

Resolved, That in making such provision, no discrimination shall be made between the original holders of the evidences, and the assignees thereof.

Resolved, That such of the debts of the individual States, as have been incurred by them during the late war ought to be assumed by the General Government and like funds provided for them.

Resolved, That the arrearages of interest on the Continental and State debts ought to be funded, and consolidated with the principal.

Resolved, That the interest to be paid thereon does not exceed—per cent, per annum, for the present.

Upon the vote upon Assumption, the question was lost in the House by a small vote, and Mr. Jefferson describes the consequence as follows:

"The great and trying question, (Assumption of State Debts,) however, was lost in the House of Representatives. So high were the feuds excited by this subject that on its rejection business was suspended. Congress met and adjourned from day to day, without doing anything the parties being too much out of temper to do business to gether."

Mr. Hamilton urged him to use his influence to secure a reconsideration of the subject and the passage of the bill.

Mr. Jefferson states that "he (Mr. J.) proposed to him, (Mr. Hamilton,) however, to dine with me (Mr. J) the next day, and I would invite another friend or two, bring them into conference together and I thought it impossible that reasonable men, consulting together coolly, could fail, by some mutual sacrifice of opinion, to form a compromise."

Mr White and Mr. Lee, of Virginia, were invited, and at Mr. Jefferson's table it was agreed that it would be better that the vote of rejection should be reconsidered, to effect which, some members should change their votes. But it was observed that this bill would be peculiarly bitter to Southern States, and that some concomitant measure should be adopted to sweeten it a little to them. There had before been propositions to fix the seat of Government either at Philadelphia or at Georgetown on the Potomac; and it was thought that by giving it to Philadelphia for ten years and to Georgetown permanently afterwards, this might, as an anodyne, calm in some degree the ferment which might be excited by the other measure alone. So two of the Potomac members (White and Lee, but White with a revulsion of stomach almost convulsive,) agreed to change their votes, and Hamilton undertook to carry the other point. In doing this, the influence he had established over Eastern members, with the agency of Robert Morris, with those of the middle States, affected his side of the engagement; and so the Assumption was passed; and, twenty millions of stock divided among favored States."

Such is the history of Assumption, as given by Mr. Jefferson.

It was but a few days ago that in mentioning this history to a senator, he informed me that in a conversation which he had held with your grand sire, Charles Carrell, of Carrollton, (who was in the Senate from Maryland in 1790, and voted for the bill,) that he stated that the only time that he knew Gen. Washington, to wish to effect an arrangement, was on the occasion alluded to, and that he was strongly importuned by Gen. Washington to vote for the Assumption bill. Mr. Madison, Fisher Ames, and a host of other distinguished men voted for the measure without ever entertaining a constitutional doubt upon the subject.—Would a score of modern politicians weigh equally in opposing scales in the mind of a plain and honest farmer, with the least distinguished of these illustrious names?

What higher authority can be adduced in relation to the power of Congress to do any act of public usefulness than is presented in support of the Law of Assumption of 1790? Gen. Washington, who presided over the convention that framed the Constitution, signed the bill. Mr. Madison, who took so commanding a part in its formation and adoption, as to be called the Father of the Constitution, as Gen. Washington has been called the father of his country, advocated and voted for the bill.

Mr. Jefferson, whose fame is incorporated in our national independence with his views then of the most rigid cast on constitutional construction, used his influence to resuscitate a rejected bill, and by his influence over the Virginia members placed on the statute book the law of 1790. And he afterwards, as President in 1802, formed a treaty with Great Britain by which this Government assumed individual debts to the amount of £600,000.

Alexander Hamilton and Robert Morris, whose names stand without comparison as the ablest financiers of this nation, the former recommended the law of 1790 as Secretary of the Treasury, and the latter advocated and voted for it as United States Senator from Pennsylvania.

It has been asserted by some opponents of the measure that I propose, that it was wise and constitutional to assume the debts of the States in 1790, because those debts were contracted during the revolutionary war, but that it would be desirable but unconstitutional for the General Government to extend any aid to the States now because they have been contracted since the formation of the Constitution. There, is a declared power in the Constitution that Congress shall assume the debts of the Confederated Government—but no where that it should assume the debts of the State.—The Confederated Government could contract debts and levy the payment upon the States by a *fixed rule of appointment*, but the States could not at their own pleasure create debts without the authority of the confederated government, and *demand the assumption and payment by the Government.*

Then an omission to declare in the Constitution that the Government of the United States shall assume the debts of the States contracted before the adoption of Constitution whilst it declares that Congress shall assume the debts of the Confederated Government contracted before the adoption of the Constitution, clearly evidences that those debts of the States stood upon the ground of any other debts, and gave to Congress the fullest discretion to assume or not to assume them as the public interest might requite. Nor was the rule laid down in the law of 1790 for the liquidation of debts contracted by the States during the confederation the same as existed under the articles of Confederation; nor were the relative amounts assumed in proportion to any scale for collecting duties or taxes by the government or of apportionment of representation by the Constitution. Congress assumed the debts under the general powers of the Constitution. And its sense of the benefits to the States and the Nation was the moving principle to exert those general powers.

Mr. Jefferson's first impressions were against the propriety of adopting the law of 1790, because "this money, (the State debts at that time,) whether wisely or foolishly spent, was pretended to have been spent for general purposes, and ought, therefore, to be paid from the general purse. But it was objected, that nobody knew what these debts were, what their amount, or what their proof. No matter; we will guess them to be twenty millions. Out of these twenty millions, we do not know how much should be reimbursed to one State, or how much to another."

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