DORCHESTER AURORA.

"PRINCIPLES AND MEASURES, AND MEN BY THEIR PRINCIPLES."

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DORCHESTER AURORA,

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THE GATHERING SONG.

They're rousing, they're rousing in valley and glen,
The noble in soul and the fearless of heart;
At Freedom's stern call, to the battle again
They rush with a zeal she alone can impart.

From wild Madawaska's dark forest of pine,
To the fertile glades where the calm Wabash flows,
True sons of their fathers! The people combine
To shake off the chains of their tyrants and foes.

They're gath'ring, they're gath'ring, on hill sides and plain,
They swarm every vale and o'ershadow each river,
Each hamlet and fell is made vocal again
With the soul thrilling cry of "Our country forever!"

The flag of the free to the breeze is unfurled,
Around it they rally to guard its fair fame;
And well may the foes of corruption be bold,
In the glory and strength of their VAN BUREN'S name.

Where the noble Ohio in wild beauty sweeps;
Where the swift Susquehanna bears onward its waves
And e'en where the Hudson in calm grandeur sleeps
There are thousands of freemen who scorn to be slaves.

Arouse then, true hearts! to the battle once more!
And the Bankites shall quail at your gallant array,
Dispair fades behind us—Hope's morn dawns before!
It will brighten full soon to a shadowless day.

BEAUTY AND THE WAVE.

Beauty sat tracing with sportive finger,
Names, on the ocean's sand one day;
Watching how long each wave would linger,
Ere it had washed the print away.

First, HOPE's she sketched—the waves just kiss'd it;
Then sank to ocean's breast again,
As half regretful to have miss'd it,
And with the maid let hope remain.

Next, FRIENDSHIP's name, so fond yet fleeting
The maiden on the sand enshrin'd,
The wave flow'd on—but soon retreating,
No trace of *Friendship* left behind.

LOVE's then appear'd, 'twas deeply graven
On that frail page, by Beauty's hand;
The wave return'd; ah! silly maiden,
Love's vows were ever writ on sand.

When one by one, each name had perish'd,
Beauty grew wearied of her play;
Finding that all most prized and cherish'd,
Some passing wave will sweep away!

Perseverance.—It is not calculable what may be accomplished in every thing in life by moderate beginnings and judicious perseverance.

—o—

An exchange paper inquires "What was the color of the winds and waves during the late gale?" And exchange very sagely replies "the winds *blue* and the waves *rose*."

—o—

Tailor's bill.—Sir Walter Scott, alluding to the amount of a tailor's bill, on fitting out his son as a cavalry officer, says—"They say it takes nine tailors to make a man—apparently one is sufficient to ruin him."

—oo—

Cossacks.—The name of *Cossacks* is taken from the Sclavonic word *Koss* (scythe.) The Russian peasants used to go to war, for want of arms, with their scythes, for which they were named Cossacks—scythemen

—oo—

A young lady asked a gentleman the meaning of the word surrogate. "It is," he replied, "a gate through which all parties have to pass on their way to get married."—"Then I suppose," said the lady, "that it is a corruption of sorrowgate."

A Remedy.—A person choked with a potatoe, will find relief by swallowing pumpkin.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS,

ON THE

FINANCES OF THE STATE.

The committee on ways and means, to whom have been referred the documents and papers relating to the finances of the State, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully submit the following report.

The amount of revenue received, which accrued in the year ending the 1st December 1839 amounted to $391,323 47

The expenditures for the same year, amounted to 631,888 48

The excess of expenditures for the same year amounted to 210,565 01

This excess was paid in part, out of the surplus revenue on special deposit to the amount of 208,750 00

It was foreseen by the last legislature, that the current revenue would be utterly inadequate to meet the demands upon the treasury. In anticipation of it, the resolution of the resolution of the session of 1828, No 77, was passed, by which the treasurer was authorised to meet the exigencies, by drawing upon the surplus revenue to the amount of $120,000 00

The estimated revenue for the current year, is $11,258 34

The estimated expenditures for the same, including $81,723,-98, the balance due on account to first December, and chargeable upon the receipts of the current year, and the additional interests due on the public debt, $274,500 00, amount to 867,645 72

The estimated excess of expenditures for said year, am't to 556,387 38

These estimates present a truly awful picture of the financial condition of the State, and conclusively shew that the course of past legislation has been productive of evils calculated to paralyze the stoutest heart. But a few years ago, the State of Maryland was almost wholly free from debt. In 1828 the entire amount was $180,947 000. Since then, "a wild spirit of internal improvement" has entered the legislature. Its members have been beset from all quarters. They have been assailed by interested speculators. Ingenious statements and fraudulent calculations have been imposed upon them, and the consequence now is, that the people have impending over them an oppressive system of taxation.

Strike from the debt of the State its obligations on account of the internal improvement companies, and it presents the condition of a prosperous government.

The actual revenue received, which accrued in the year ending 1st Dec. 1839, exclusive of that which arose from internal improvement companies, amounted to the sum of $265,122 06

The expenditures for the same year exclusive of the appropriations to the said companies, and the interest on the public debt created for them, amounted to the sum of 245,000 37

Making an excess in favor of the treasury, of $10,121 69

The estimated revenue for the present or current year, exclusive of that which arises from internal improvement companies, amounts to $248,581 25

The estimated expenditures for the same year exclusive of the interest on the public debt, amount to 212,453 00

Making an excess in favor of the internal improvement companies amounting to $36,128 16

But instead of being in this flourishing condition, the present Legislature find the State embarrassed with an immense debt and an estimated deficiency of $556,387,38 for the current year, to be met from some quarter.

The following appropriations have been made for the improvement companies.

For Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company.

5 pr. ct. currency debt, per ch. 105 of 1827	$500,000
5 pr. ct. debt pr. ch. 239 of 1833	125,000
6 do loan do pr. ch 241 of 1834	2,000,000
5 do st'g bonds (converted) pr. ch. 336 of 1839	3,200,000
5 pr. ct. bonds do pr. ch. 396 1839	1.375,000
	$72,000,000

For Balt. and Ohio Rail Road Company.

5 per ct. currency debt, per chapter 104 of 1827, $500,000

4 do sterling bonds, pr. chap. 386 of 1838, 3,700,000

$3,700,000

For the Balt. & Wash. Railroad, 5 per ct. currency debt, per chapter 33 of 1838	500,000,00
For Balt. & Susquehanna R. Road. 4 per ct. currency per ch. 119 of 1830,	100,000
6 pr. ct. pr. ch. 241 of 1834	1,000,000
3 do 302 of 1837	500,000
5 do st'g. 395 of 1838	750,000
	$2,350,000
For the Tide Water Canal. Sterl'g 5 pr. ct. bonds, ch. 416, 1838	$1,000,000
For Annapolis & Elk Ridge Rail Road—subscription of the State	300,000
For the Eastern Shore Roil Road. Subscription in pursuance of chapter 395 of 1835,	1,000 000
Sum total	$16,050,000

For the interest arising on this debt, and which the internal improvement companies are unable to pay, the State is made answerable by the Legislatures which created it.—From year to year, by different Legislative enactments, it has been increased.

Upon the faith which has been given to these acts, capitalists, in this country and abroad, have been induced to advance their money. In this manner, the debt has been created. The money has been actually borrowed, and distributed through the State in payment of officers, contractors and laborers, who have been employed on the public works.

The professed design was an advancement of the common prosperity of the people. So far, the end contemplated has failed, and the State is called upon to redeem its obligations. For such a catastrophe this Legislature is not responsible—when it assembled, this deplorable state of things was existing. The crisis must be met, and with a determination which will shew that the responsible trust will not be abused by the members who compose this Legislature. The credit of the State must not pass sullied from our hands—and the truth must go forth to the world, that the resources of the State are adequate to its embarrassments. The high character which our country has always borne for integrity, must not be diminished by any faltering on our part. We must so act as to prove, that what we owe we intend to pay. Every principle of honor, virtue and patriotism impels us to such a course. It is not the characteristic of an American to mould his principles to subserve his selfishness. What he would require of another, he will perform himself.—His principle is, to exact nothing but what is right, and submit to nothing that is wrong.

When General Jackson was the President of the United States, he insisted upon the payment of a debt due from the French Government. In enforcing the claim, the friendly intercourse between the two nations, was for a while arrested. We were upon the verge of war. Great as was the opposition to his administration on other subjects, upon this question the hearts of all were united.—Though the controversy was with France, our ancient ally when we were struggling for political liberty and independence, still, as the demand of the Government was just, past friendship was forgotten, and the course of the Administration ardently sustained. The chivalry of the nation was aroused, and nothing but an unconditional payment of the debt, would have been tolerated. It must not be said of us, that what we exacted from France we will refuse to others.

If the period has arrivsd, when to pay the interest on this debt all other resources have failed except direct taxation, we must resort to it.

By the act of 1835, ch. 395, sec. 15, it is enacted, "that in case it shall become necessary at any time hereafter, to pay a direct tax for the support of Government, or to sustain the public credit, the same shall be laid according to the thirteenth article of the Declaration of Rights including all goods, wares and merchandize belonging to citizens of this State, ships or vessels in or out of port, moneies at interest or on mortgage, bond or any case in action, stock and public securities of every description, and all income derived from shares of every incorporated institution or otherwise, as well as every other description of propertion, real, personal or mixed which escapes taxation under existing laws, and the faith of the State is hereby pledged to lay the same accordingly in consideration thereof, and to provide for the payment of interest and the reimbursement of principal of debts which may be created at any subsequent Legislature, and all acts or parts of acts in contravention of the constitutional and equitable principles herein contained, shall thenceforward be repealed, abrogated and annulled.

Is tax for the present inevitable? Are there no resources within the reach of the legislature to avoid so serious an expedient? It is a resort which at all times should be avoided as far as possible, and only adopted as the ultimate resource. If for the present it can be postponed, it is the duty of the legislature to do so. We are in the midst of commercial embarrassments. The failure of the banks to redeem their obligations—the tremendous reaction of improvident speculations and overtrading; the overwhelming debt amounting to about 200,000,000 dollars in which the States of the Union are involved, have produced a general stagnation in trade and depressed the products of agriculture. Nor is this state of things confined to our own country. In England with whom we have our principal commerce, the same unfortunate condition exists. Depressed in their monied transactions, and having balances due her in this country, from merchants, banks and states, the present depression is made the more disastrous.

The evil has been foreseen. The awful consequences of the desperate state of expansion in which the banks have engaged, and the ruinous policy of internal improvement speculations into which the States have entered, have been predicted. The reaction upon the States in their mad career, is for the first time experienced. It is not so with the banks—their experience is the experience of ages. What is the case now, was the same a century ago.

Mr. McCullah, professor of political economy in the University of London, in his notes upon the works of Adam Smith, states:

1st, of the effect of banking in 1793. "The extended transactions of the country, required fresh facilities for carrying them on; and in consequence a bank was created in every market town and in almost every village. To force their paper into circulation was the object of all.

The catastrophe which followed was such as might have been foreseen. The currency having become redundant—the exchanges took an unfavorable turn in the early part of 1792, and the Bank of England having been in consequence obliged to narrow her issues, a most violent revulsion took place in the ending of that year and beginning of 1793.—The failure of one or two great houses excited a panic, which proved fatal to myriads more. When this revulsion began, there were it is supposed about 350 country banks in England and Wales, of which about 100 were compelled to stop payment, and upwards of 50 more were totally destroyed, producing by their fall an extent of misery and bankrupcy, that had been until then unknown in England."

2d, of the effect of banking in 1814. "Up to 1813 there were banks in almost all parts of England, forcing their paper into circulation at an enormous expense to themselves. The price of corn had risen to an extraordinary height in 1813. This fall produced a want of confidence, and an alarm among the country bankers and their customers; and such a destruction of country paper took place as has not been parelled except only by the revulsion of 1825. In 1816 no fewer than 240 country banks had stopped payment and 92 commissions of bankruptcy were issued by these establishments. The failures that then occurred were the more distressing as they chiefly affected the industrious and poorer classes, and frequently swallowed up in an instant the fruits of a long life of laborious exertions.

Thousands upon thousands, who had considered themselves affluent, found they were destitute of all real property; and sunk as if by enchantment and without any fault of their own into the abyss of poverty."

3rd, of the effect of banking in 1825. "Nations are slow and reluctant learners, and it seems as if additional experience had been necessary to convince the parliament and people of England that there was any thing defective in a system, which had in two previous instances deluged the country with bankruptcy; and which enables every individual, however unprincipled, who chooses to open a *money shop* to issue notes to serve as currency in the ordinary transactions of society. A rise of prices and a rage for speculation took place in 1824, '5. Many of the country bankers seemed to have no other object than to get themselves indebted to the public; and such was the success of their efforts to get their paper in circulation, that the amount of it aflot in 1825, was estimated to be near fifty per cent greater than the amount of it afloat in 1823.

The consequence of this extravagant and unprincipled conduct is well known. The currency became redundant—exchange began to decline and a heavy drain for bullion compelled the Bank of England to lessen her issues."

This was the signal for the repetition of the tragedy of 1793, but on a much larger & more magnificent scale, and with more destructive consequences. Save himself who can! was the universal cry: and the destruction of the country papers was so sudden and excessive, that in less than six weeks above seventy banking establishments were swept away."

In this country the same effects from like causes have invariably been the result. Taking a period since the late war, we have witnessed precisely the same consequences in 1820, 1825, 1829, and '30, 1834, 1839, and '40.

The Bank of the United States went into operation in 1817.—In 1818 its discounts had increased to $51,000,000

In the same year they decreased to 41 000,000

In the same year its circulation was 9,000,000

In the same year its circulation decreased to 7,000,000

In 1820 its discounts were reduced to 37,000,000

In the same year its circulation was reduced to 3,000,000

From 1823 to 1824 its discounts increased from $41,754,000 to 50,000,000

In the same year its circulation from 4,361,000 to 6,068,000

Gouge, in his admirable treaties on banking, page 194, says:—"In 1825 the immediate danger was to the banks and through them to the community In 1826 the United States Bank and the leading State Banks placed themselves in a situation of great strength and repose, but the sufferings of the community were not the less on that account. It was in fact by procuring sufferings in the community that the banks placed themselves in that situation, from which they regarded what was going on around them with so much complacency The people implored them for relief, but the president of the United States Bank replied—It is in the nature that if men or nations live extravagantly, they must suffer till they repair their losses, and that neither men nor banks should impose on the community by promises to pay when they cannot pay. The laws of trade have their own remedy for such disorders as infallible as the laws of animal life, which enable the human system to relieve itself from its own excesses. Both must have their course—But the Bank of the United States is invoked to assume, that which, whoever attempts to deserve the ruin he will suffer. It is requested to erect itself into a special providence to modify the laws of nature and to declare that the ordinary fate of the heedless and improvident shall not be applied to the United States. Our countrymen are to be indulged without restraint in the utmost extravagance of the luxuries of Europe on credit from the banks; and when the date of payment arrives, the debtor shall not be called upon for payment. The banks shall not be incommodated to pay their own notes, for the moment any inconvenience is felt, the Bank of the United States will certainly interpose and pay the debts. But if the Bank of the United States blends any sense with its tenderness it will do nothing of all this." "This reply though not very consoling, would have been unanswerable, if it had not been, that the disorder of the country was overtrading brought on by overbanking." The same disastrous condition now exists, with the addition that the banks have not as in 1826 placed themselves in a safe condition. With the ruin which the frequent overtrading and undue expansions have entailed upon the community, they have a second time in the course of a few years, forfeited the confidence of the public and sunk into disgrace. Whilst they have encouraged the heedless and improvident to indulge in extravagances, as they have gone too far to place themselves "in a situation of great strength and repose."

At such a period it is important if possible, to avert the additional calamity of a direct tax.

The State has the following resources:

The State's remaining portion of the surplus revenue on deposite in the Bank of Baltimore,	$56,250 00
The State's remaining portion of the same, which the Treasurer had authority to draw from the Union & Franklin Banks, by virtue of resolution No. 77, 1838	30,000 00
The State's remaining portion of said fund on deposit in said bank,	561,387 25
The State's bank stock,	528,966,00

Amounting in all to the sum of $1,176,603 91.

By an appropriation of these resources, it is within the power of the legislature to provide for the present, and fully to sustain the character of the State, without resorting to a tax. At the very last session of the legislature, a deficiency in the treasury was anticipated, and to provide for it, a portion of the surplus revenue was approprated. It was deemed better by that legislature to expend a portion of this fund than resort to a tax.

The deficiency as herein before stated amounted to	$240,565 41
The sum authorised by resolution No. 77, of 1838, to be drawn from the surplus revenue, amounted to the sum of	120,000 00

A previous authority had been given to the treasurer, to draw upon the same fund, on deposit in the Bank of Baltimore, to the amount of $175,000 making in all, available to the treasury for the last year, exclusive of the interest from this source, the sum of 295,000 dollars.

Independently of this consideration, it is the duty of the Legislatnre to appropriate all is available means before a resort is had to a tax. It cannot for a moment be urged that with a view of creating a fund similar to the surplus revenue, or of making investments in bank stocks, that any Legislature would be waiting to levy a tax. If, then, it would be unwise to levy a tax for such purposes, it must follow, that it is equally injudicious to levy a tax to prevent these funds from being appropriated to present exigencies. They constitute the present available resources which the public interest requires to be first expended.

But it may be said, that the surplus revenue is at present on deposite in the Union and Franklin Banks, bearing 3 per cent. interest and appropriated to the purposes of education. If no other fund can be pledged to this object the objection is insuperable. First, because of the object to which it is at present appropriated, and secondly, because in proportion to the amount which will be withdrawn from the counties where the primary school system prevails; will the taxes be increased. It is well known, that the primary schools are sustained by a tax upon the taxable inhabitants of the different counties, by districts or otherwise. The interest arising on the surplus revenue, is at present distributed amongst the different counties in aid of their schools. In proportion to the amount paid to each county is the tax diminished. But the committee are above all mindful of the object of the appropriation. A system of public education is most important in a country like ours.

The perpetuity of the Government depends upon the intelligence of the *entire* people. They constitute the sovereignty, and in proportion as they remain uneducated, are the liberties of the country in jeopardy. No measure can, therefore, be too strong, which is necessary to secure a system of public education. There is however, in the opinion of the committee, a source of revenue much more certian and secure than the interest arising on the surplus revenue, and which may be appropriated to the same purposes of education—

The one fifth of the receipts from passengers on the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road amounted during the last year, to	$37,368 91
The interest arising on the surplus revenue on deposite, and appropriated to purposes of education, amounts to	34,069 36
Shewing a difference in favor of the revenue from the Washington Branch, of	$3,299 55

Besides the perfect safety of this fund, it is one which is yearly increasing; and, as the city of Washington will continue permanently to be the Capitol of the United States, must continue to increase as the population of the country extends the business at the Seat of Government, and of course the travel over the road must multiply. If the banks in which the surplus revenue is deposited were to fail, the school fund would be lost. Not so with the revenue from the Washington branch. It is never-failing. It accrues yearly. The insolvency of the company cannot affect it. Being a tax of fifty cents paid for every passenger passing on the road, as long as the road is travelled, the tax must accrue. It is certain and imperishable.

The State's available resources at the present time, consisting of surplus revenue and bank stock, it has been shown amount to	1,176,604 91
The estimated deficiency for the current year is	$556,387 38
To this add amount appropriated by the present Legislature to the absolute necessities of the Penitentiary,	15,000 00
Add also, 1 2 of the interest on the surplus revenue for the present year, which will for the last six months be a loss of that amount of revenue if expended	17,034 68
Add also 1 2 the dividend arising on bank stock, if disposed of during the current year, it being also a loss in the revenue to that amount,	17,967 33
Total deficiency for the present year,	606,389 39
Deduct this sum of $606,389 39 from the aforegoing sum of $1,176,663, 91, and the balance of the surplus revenue and of the bank stock, to meet the demands of the year 1841, will amount to	570,214 52

Presuming the same deficiency