

the eleven hundred and twenty-two millions, seven hundred and thirty four thousand and three hundred and seventy-five dollars, already ascertained as the amount left after extinguishing the Indian title and paying to the new states seventeen and a half per cent., there will remain for distribution among all the states, nine hundred and eighty-seven millions, seven hundred and thirty-four thousand and three hundred and seventy-five dollars.

The calculations and estimates now submitted, are believed to be as exact and accurate as the nature of the subject will permit. The details have been given to enable each reader to judge for himself, and if there be any errors or inaccuracies in the statements, to make all proper allowances and deductions for them. Our object is not to mislead, but to awaken the attention of the people of Maryland to a subject which yields in importance to no public measure of the times.

We have thus ascertained that under the plan proposed by Mr. Clay, and approved of by Genl. Harrison, the public domain would produce a fund for distribution among all the States, in proportion to their population, amounting to not less than nine hundred and eighty-seven millions seven hundred and thirty-four thousand three hundred and seventy-five dollars. The next inquiry is to ascertain the proportion payable to Maryland. This is the important matter to our people, and before we shall have concluded we hope to satisfy the most sceptical, that upon the distribution of the proceeds of these lands, depends in a great measure our prosperity and that of our descendants.

When the distribution bill of 1832 was passed by Congress, but vetoed by Genl. Jackson, Maryland was estimated to contain a population of four hundred and five thousand eight hundred and forty-three people, and would, if that bill had become a law, have been entitled to about one twenty-ninth part of the proceeds of the public lands. It is difficult to estimate the present population of Maryland or to ascertain how it compares with that of the United States. It is believed that under the new census, there will be found to be in the United States, seventeen millions, and in Maryland at least five hundred thousand people. If this be correct, the population of Maryland is about one thirty-fourth part of that of the United States. Maryland would therefore, upon the principles of distribution now under consideration, be entitled to one thirty-fourth part of nine hundred and eighty-seven millions seven hundred and thirty-four thousand three hundred and seventy-five dollars, which is equal to *twenty-nine millions, fifty one thousand and eleven dollars*. This result is beyond all doubt correct, if the estimated value of the public lands be so. If, however, it be conceded that the lands ought not to be valued at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, but at sixty-two and a half cents per acre, still Maryland would be entitled to receive as her proportion of this property, the sum of *fourteen millions, five hundred and twenty-five thousand, five hundred and five dollars*.

The opponents of the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands, urge that their sale cannot take place at once, and that a long time must elapse before the whole of the public domain can be disposed of. Hence they argue, that their real value is the principal sum which at six per cent. will produce an amount that can be relied upon as the yearly income from their sales. Thus if the lands will not sell in sufficient quantities to bring in any one year more than six millions of dollars, the inference for which they contend is, that one hundred millions, of dollars is their full value. It is not proposed to enter into any elaborate argument on this point. It is sufficient to say that the population of our country has increased and will continue to increase to an extent heretofore unparalleled in the history of the world. The tide of immigration from the old world, as well as from the old States of the Union, will continue to flow to the public lands. These causes will keep up the demand for this property so long as it can be bought at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, until it is exhausted. No calculation can be made of the extent of this demand for any one year. The revenue from this source, great as it has been, will continue to in-