

would be attended with an abundant and profitable return to the industrious and enterprising.

To secure these blessings what is necessary? When the expenditures of the general government shall be reduced to the lowest possible amount consistent with the interests of the people, there will be no difficulty in accomplishing the distribution of the lands. Maryland will not stand alone in the effort to produce this much desired effect. Pennsylvania, Vermont, Rhode Island, and other states already advocate it. New York and Virginia will unite. Most of the old states and many of the new states will support it. The election of General Harrison will secure its adoption.

This most desirable distribution will never be made until the principles of economy and reform are in practical operation in the administration of the general government. The enormous expenditures for the year 1837, the first year of Mr. Van Buren's administration, placed the public treasury in such a condition, as would probably have induced his party to oppose this measure, even if under other circumstances it would have been favored by that gentleman and his friends. From the official report made by the Secretary of the Treasury to the Senate of the United States, on the 4th May, 1840, it appears that the expenditures for the year 1837, independent of any sum paid on account of the public debt, amounted to thirty-seven millions, two hundred and forty-three thousand, two hundred and fourteen dollars and twenty-four cents. It is true that this report shows that this sum embraces many items for which no branch of the government can properly be held accountable. These may be called unavoidable payments. They consist of trust funds, indemnities, duties refunded, claims of states for war debts, three per cent. on lands sold, two per cent. on account of Cumberland road, and purchase of titles to Indian lands—they amount to the sum of nine millions, four hundred and eleven thousand and eighty-eight dollars and eighteen cents. After deducting this amount from the sum already stated, it will be seen that during the year 1837, the general government expended for ordinary and extraordinary purposes, the large amount of twenty-seven millions, eight hundred and thirty-two thousand, one hundred and twenty-six dollars and six cents. By an examination of the same report, it will be seen that during the administration of Mr. Adams, the ordinary and extraordinary expenditures exclusive of payments on account of the public debts and such payments as were unavoidable, did not exceed for any one year, twelve millions of dollars.

The history of the country has recorded the fact that when Mr. Adams became president, the government owed a large public debt, and that during his four years there were applied from the surplus revenue, the sum of forty-five millions, three hundred and three thousand and five hundred and thirty-three dollars and forty-three cents in part payment of this debt. The friends of General Jackson will long remember that during the eight years of his administration, there were paid for the public debt sixty-five millions, five hundred and thirty-two thousand and six hundred and three dollars and thirty-six cents, and that thereby this debt was extinguished. It is now equally well authenticated that during the first year of Mr. Van Buren's administration, the government was compelled to create a new national debt, and to issue treasury notes to the amount of ten millions of dollars. This was caused by extravagance and want of foresight. The increase in expenditures from twelve millions of dollars, the average amount during Mr. Adams' time, to upwards of twenty-seven millions of dollars, was the probable cause which led to the issue of the treasury notes. We have thus seen that while Mr. Adams was president, there were appropriated upwards of eleven millions dollars per year towards the payment of the public debt, and that during General Jackson's time the appropriations on account of the public debt amounted each year upwards of eight millions dollars. On the other hand Mr. Van Buren found the entire revenues not sufficient to cover the extravagant expen-