

ditures of his first year, and was compelled to resort to an issue of treasury notes to the amount of ten millions of dollars.

Is it not most extraordinary that any citizen of Maryland, and still more so that any citizen of Baltimore, should oppose a measure so certain to benefit us as the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands? True the prominent men of the Van Buren party now oppose it. The day, however, is not far distant when in Maryland there will be no difference of opinion on this subject. If some relief be not afforded, some change in the condition of the country be not effected, our people will be pressed to the earth by the weight of direct taxation. The debt of Maryland amounting to fifteen millions of dollars, and the debt of Baltimore to five millions five hundred thousand dollars, must be paid. These debts differ in this essential particular from a debt due by an individual. Death, insolvency, and many other circumstances, may operate to prevent the payment of a debt due by an individual. There is no escape from a public debt, it fastens itself upon all we have and passes to the remotest posterity until paid.

In the annual message of Governor Grason to the Legislature of Maryland, are found the following expressions of opinion. After speaking of the condition of the state, he presses upon the Legislature the necessity of guarding against an increase of existing evils, and of "providing if possible, for the gradual redemption of the public debt." He then says:—"I do not perceive how these objects can be effected without assisting the further issue and hypothecation of state stock, reducing the public expenditures by a rigid system of economy, and increasing the revenue by a moderate *tax on real and personal estate*, till it is sufficient to pay the interest and have a small surplus to be applied to the principal of the public debt. Two hundred thousand dollars a year in addition to the present revenue would probably be sufficient for this purpose, if raised at once; but the longer the taxes are postponed, the heavier they must be at last." Such were the views expressed by the Van Buren Governor of Maryland, on the 2nd of January, 1840. Developments which since that time have transpired in relation to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, not only struck consternation and dismay into the heart of the Treasurer of the State, but have proved conclusively that the amount to be raised by direct taxation in Maryland, must greatly exceed two hundred thousand dollars per year. The Legislature did not adopt the course recommended by the Governor—the evil day was postponed; but the time must shortly arrive when the question of direct taxation or distribution of the proceeds of the public lands will be the only alternative left. In the same message Governor Grason says: "It has also been proposed to divide the proceeds of the public lands among the different states, for purposes of Internal Improvement. The friends of education are competitors for this fund. Whether it will be applied to either or both of these objects, or *to the purposes of the General Government*, is a question which will probably not be settled, till our *rail roads and canals are beyond the reach of assistance.*"

This last opinion of Governor Grason was expressed because he hoped that the ascendancy of the Van Buren party in the councils of the nation would be continued. He knew that his party was pledged to oppose the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands. Instead of taking the ground that every Marylander ought to occupy, and insisting upon the distribution, he contents himself with the expression of the opinion, that the State had better at once lay a direct tax, and abandon all expectation of having justice done to her by the General Government, by the passage of the distribution law. The farmers of Maryland will not respond to this opinion of the Governor. They will insist that Maryland shall have her proportion of the proceeds of the public lands, and that their hard and scanty earnings shall not be reduced by a direct tax. They know that the selection of Governor Far-  
rison will lead to the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands, and that they will prevent the selection of Governor Far-  
rison from fattening on their meat.

No state in