

for the common defence, and which might be disallowed by the General and State governments. Your predecessor in conformity to the recommendation of the general delegates from the City and precincts, passed a resolve, authorising the borrowing, on the credit of the Corporation, from any of the Banks of the City, a sum not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars, pledging the credit of the City and precincts for its repayment. A petition also having been presented to the Citizens for signature upwards of fifteen hundred names were subscribed to it, of those upon whom the tax in question would principally fall, (and which it is believed might have been almost as unanimously signed as it was unanimously recommended, had there been sufficient time to present it to all our Citizens, and forwarded to the delegates from the City of Baltimore to be presented to the House of Delegates.

When it is considered that the City of Baltimore had, in these proceedings, undertaken to do that which the State government is, by the very nature of our compact, solemnly pledged to perform; and that the only boon which the City required was to grant its humble prayer, that it might be permitted, upon and with the consent of its Citizens, to pay the debt which it had voluntarily incurred for its own defence; when we further consider that so far from any ^{party} feelings being mingled with any of the measures that had been devoted to, every political distinction in the City had been swallowed up in a sense of the common danger, which equally and alike menaced all; and that the most cordial co-operation existed between both parties as to the means of defence of payment, and of application to the Legislature,

when it was not even intimated that the money borrowed had been improvidently or injudiciously expended; nor denied that without these means of defence (which the State government would not supply, and the general government was under the obligation to regulate, with a view to the equal rights of other exposed parts,) this great and flourishing City, the impoxium of the State, might, in all probability have been exposed to all the horrors of sack and conflagration. I knew not in what terms to express my astonishment at the refusal of the House of Delegates, to grant the prayer of the City, to be permitted to redeem its credit. This refusal, so strange and unexpected, was not alleviated by any declaration that the State, bound to the defence of all its parts, would, at some future day, take upon itself the payment of these disbursements made in defence of the City. Nor was the Legislature will merely suspended until a more full enquiry could be made into the expediency of the expenditures, and the dispositions of the Citizens of Baltimore to its repayment; but it was refused on the principle, that the General Government being bound to provide for the defence of the State at large, and consequently of the City of Baltimore it would be a dangerous precedent to permit the City, in its corporate capacity to raise and expend money for its own protection.

At the late session of the Legislature of our State, the Representatives from the City of Baltimore again urged the question in the House of Delegates, which upon this occasion abandoned the principle which had before been acted upon and actually passed a Bill granting the prayer of the City. The succeeding day a reconsideration