

general assembly to take or refuse them. The first committee, appointed to inspect the intendant's books, approved the purchase for the state, and the intendant, by their request, immediately afterwards, and not before, put the certificates into the treasury, and charged the state with the purchase money. The intendant cannot conceive, that the dignity of the state will be injured by the buying certificates; it was not thought so by the legislature, that the purchase of continental money would wound the honour or dignity of government; and the intendant cannot discover any difference between purchasing bills of credit, or certificates, at less than the nominal sum. The intendant has not penetration to discover how the purchase of government securities can possibly create any injury to the public creditors, unless it can be proved, that the more able the state is to discharge its debts, the less expectation its creditors will have of payment. If any state should be unhappily involved in debt beyond its ability to pay, and its creditors would *willingly* accept a composition, and from false dignity and mistaken honour the state should refuse, and insist upon remaining in debt the whole sum, the consequence would be fatal to the state, and destructive to its creditors. The money laid out in the purchase of these certificates was unappropiated; nay, £ 3973 9 1 was received from the funds consolidated, and therefore must, if put into the treasury, have remained unused till the year 1791. It may be remembered, that a tax of 2/6 in the £. 100 is appropriated by law to sink these certificates.

It is clear, that the intendant's purchasing certificates increased their value. Is a conduct in a state officer, which raises the value of government securities, derogatory to the dignity of government? The faith of government is pledged to redeem these certificates at par; the government is not of ability to do this *immediately*, and has postponed the actual payment to a future day; by which these securities are worth less than par. The intendant really thought, that a measure which tended to raise them *nearer* to par than they were before the measure was taken, was acting in conformity to the idea of the dignity of the state, instead of detracting from that dignity. The intendant cannot omit comparing this part of the report, with the part wherein he is censured for not making so much by the exchange of certificates as he might have done; in that instance the honourable committee seemed to be of opinion, that it was not at all against the dignity of the state for the intendant to have sold one kind of certificates at more than their value, and to have purchased another kind of certificates at less than their value.

11. The committee remarks, that no regular account appears on the intendant's books of the repairs of the public buildings.

The auditor's books will shew every shilling expended for these purposes, and the committee might have seen the plans and estimates on the intendant's table, and they are ready to be produced to this house whenever called for. The intendant, in discharge of this trust, has made such purchases and contracts as he thought for the interest of the public, according to the best of his judgment, and the information he could obtain on such subjects; he may have erred in judgment, but has not intentionally done injury to the state.

12. The committee have concluded their report, with giving their decided opinion, that the office of intendant is unnecessary.

To differ in opinion with the committee may be deemed arrogance, and may be imputed by some to ambition, or the love of money. The only wish of the intendant is to remove the aspersions on his character, and to preserve the good opinion of the wise and virtuous part of the community. The expence of the office is only £. 725 per annum; a salary of £. 500 is no object with the intendant; other motives induced him to accept and continue in this arduous office. He refused an appointment from congress of superior rank, with double the salary, from an earnest wish and hope to restore the public credit of his native land, and to reduce the finances of the state into order. How far his labours have succeeded, he leaves to the decision of the impartial public; conscious that he has endeavoured to discharge the important duties of his office with integrity, he cheerfully submits to public investigation, and attends the pleasure of the house to answer the questions that may be asked him.

The intendant cannot omit remarking, that a considerable part of the business, which it would seem was intended to have been done by the committee, and which appears to be at least as necessary to be attended to as the subjects adverted to, has not by them been reported on.

They have not noticed the sales of confiscated property made by the intendant, to the amount of above £. 150,000 in a short time; cash, certificates and bonds, taken for the whole (except £. 1200) and lodged in the treasury, and the account stated and ready to be settled.

It does not appear, that they have examined the intendant's sales of specifics, which amount to above £. 75,000.

It does not appear, that they have examined the cash account, the most material both to the state and the intendant; if they had investigated this account, and called for his vouchers, the intendant is inclined to hope they would have found his books neither deficient in truth as to matter or perpicuity as to the method.

They have not examined what money is in the intendant's hands; if they had been pleased to have done this, it would have been found, that the sum in hand (not amounting to £. 400) corresponds with the balance appearing due by the cash account.

It does not appear, that they have compared the intendant's orders on the treasury with the entries on the auditor's books, which, if they had done, it would have been seen that there was a correspondence of the orders with the entries, and that the orders were all carried to the proper accounts. This too is a matter of much importance to the state and the intendant.