

started these difficulties in the one case, to resolve them in the other. For with regard to the preliminary, of which your honours are so apprehensive, if it is made a preliminary with regard to the property in question, will it not also be made a preliminary with regard to the back lands, which have belonged to the crown and people of Great-Britain? Nay, will it not more probably be made a preliminary with regard to these lands, than with regard to the property in question? In the one case a solid emolument will arise to the crown and to the nation, in the other to those only who have manifested an attachment to it. In the one case interest will induce the enemy to make it a preliminary, in the other a sense of honour only; and in proportion as the love of interest is stronger in the British court than the love of honour, so much the more willing will they be to make the one a preliminary article, and to neglect the other. We may be assured the crown will not regard the property of those subjects, of whom we speak, so much as to continue the war a single day on their account. Did this property remain unalienated, and it appeared that the bare mention of it might obtain it, it is possible that court might, to save appearances, be induced to mention it. But when it is applied and gone, they will be silent; for having lost thirteen states, and vast tracts of crown lands for themselves, they will not much contend for others whom they know, only as retainers on their army, or the obnoxious of America. But should we not be willing to make any preliminary about it, we shall have all America interested with us. The property of British subjects, and those of them called refugees, through the several states, are already in the same predicament with the objects of our bill. The several states of America are therefore