

Sorry I am, to have it in my power, as one instance of the prevalence of this principle, to give the public expression of a member in the House of Delegates.

In a debate on the subject of the Indian lands on the Eastern Shore, it was proposed to sell part of them on credit for certificates at a certain rate.—The rate proposed was five for one, which appeared to be agreeable to the House.

The member I allude to, rose, and objected to it, assigning for a reason, that it would tend to appreciate the certificates, which he observed could then be procured for one sixth, or perhaps less.—The fact, I believe, is well known.—I leave it to be commented on.

Before I quit this subject I must relate another transaction intimately connected with it.

A small number of the late officers of the Maryland line, who resided in Annapolis, and had received instructions from their fellow officers, observing, that there was little probability of a compliance with the requisitions of Congress in their favor, drew up a memorial, in which, after hinting at the supposed inability of the State, to effect that desirable purpose, they suggested the expediency of the Assembly's advancing one year's interest, in specie, on the final settlement certificates, in the possession of the original holders, as a temporary relief, and the means of preventing the entire sacrifice of them.

In support of this request, were urged, the circumstances, which had attended the depreciation certificates and the probability that the assistance of the Legislature would again be deferred, until the final settlements likewise got into the hands of persons of greater power and influence.

The attention of the Assembly was called to the conduct and situation of the memorialists, and a solemn appeal was made to the justice and humanity of the State.

On the 31st of January this memorial was presented to the House of Delegates, and was immediately read, and referred to a committee of five members.

Whatever principles or views may have actuated the gentlemen on this committee, it is certain that their conduct was extremely reprehensible, injurious, and I will say, unjust, to the persons concerned.

Upon various pretences, the consideration of their memorial was delayed and neglected; the acquaintance of some of the