

the officers, with the gentlemen, gave them an opportunity of soliciting, and pressing for a speedy determination.—But promises alone could be obtained until the session was nearly closed, when their report was delivered in.

The gentlemen will please to observe, that in the expressions I have made use of, I allude to the unnecessary delay, by which the memorialists were debarred from the benefit of having the subject canvassed in the House.—And I may venture to assert, that no application of what nature soever, which was made during the session, was so injuriously neglected.

We now come to the substance of the report, which declared, that “Although the committee entertained the highest opinion of the valor, merit and patriotism of the officers, &c. they conceived the state of the treasury would not admit of making the advance that was requested, and if it did, that this State was, by certain resolves of Congress, excluded from the power of exercising its liberality.”

How far the committee might be right in their opinion of the state of the treasury, I shall not pretend to determine, although I am certain, it is frequently resorted to, for less worthy purposes.

With regard to the resolves of Congress, I am persuaded, that the gentlemen must have mistaken the import of them.—The particular resolve, on which their opinion was founded, was passed, I believe, in 1782, and was calculated to prevent partial settlements by the States, before the Continental Commissioners should ascertain the claims of the army.—It was in effect repealed, by the resolve of September, 1785, respecting the payment of interest, and there cannot be a doubt, that after a compliance, by the ten shilling tax, with the requisition contained in the last report from Congress, this State would be credited for every advance made to their own troops.

We are led to suppose that the report of the committee was conformable to the sentiments of the House, although we are unfortunately precluded from a knowledge of the opinions of the individual members.

The report was read the same day on which it was given in, and was from that time, entirely unnoticed without even the formality of the concurrence of the House, or the smallest chance of having its errors rectified by a proper investigation.