

I believe I may venture to pronounce, that since the establishment of this government, no application either from friend or foe, ever met with a similar fate.

Those who ask for what is justly due to them, may surely expect an answer, even if they are refused the justice which they demand.—In the present instance, they were not to be favored with any,—from which, this consideration will arise, that those who have contributed in a great degree, to the salvation of the State, must still be the objects of its injustice and ingratitude, without any prospect of obtaining redress.

In the course of these observations, I have been led to declare my sentiments, with considerable freedom, for which, the only reason I can alledge, is, the impossibility of delivering them in milder terms, *feeling* as I do.

The public body or private person, who rob me of my property, are alike the objects of my resentment, although the latter only, are within the reach of it.

From the unequal manner, in which the people had hitherto contributed to the support of government, it became necessary to establish some permanent valuation of the lands throughout the State, as a rule to govern our future assessments. This was an object extremely desirable and of such importance, as to require considerable time and attention; but in the discussion of it a variety of sentiments might be expected to prevail, as every member would be inclined to think the lands in his own county rated too high.

This however was not the only difficulty. After the valuation had been completed, it was suggested, that landed property, was in general over-rated, and consequently a general reduction was thought necessary.

To men of plain understandings, it will appear surprising, that any difficulties should have arisen, as to the mode of executing this intention. The House of Delegates resolved that the average value of the lands in the several counties, should be reduced, one tenth part per acre.—But on the next day they were informed, that they had been entirely mistaken, and that the purpose was to be effected by a very different mode.—Accordingly, when the question was put, for reconsidering the resolve, it was carried by 23 against 18.

A question was put the next day for rescinding it, which was dissented to by 29 against 21. It will be matter of curiosity