

[Council to Honble The General Assembly]

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The various and important Matters contained in the Several Resolutions of Congress, the Letters from General Washington, the Superintendent of Finance, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, received since your Adjournment, which we have the Honor of laying before you, together with strong Appearances of a Change having taken Place, on the Part of the Enemy, in the System of conducting the War, and the evident Necessity of providing against the Effects of this Change, have induced us to convene you so much earlier than the Time to which both Houses stood adjourned. The Letters of the Superintendent of the Finances, and more particularly, the Letter from His Excellency the Commander in Chief, so powerfully manifest the absolute Necessity of a Compliance with the Requisitions of Congress of the second of November last, making not only all the Plans of the former, which have been approved of by Congress, for restoring public Credit, and introducing into every Department the most rigid Economy, the Effects of which have already been so salutary; but the very Existence of the Army, to depend upon this Compliance, that nothing is left for us to say upon this Subject more than to lament that our present Supply Bill, although extremely burthensome to the People, brings nothing into the Treasury, or nothing in Comparison with what the People pay and the Demands of the State; Indeed it does not appear that Congress will derive the smallest Aid from it, the Distresses of our Trade having destroyed all Demand for the specific Articles, which must either remain in the Counties where they are collected until they waste away upon our Hands, or be sent to Market at an Expence for Transportation, equal to, if not beyond their whole Value. The Damages sustained by the Citizens on the Bay Shores, and the Interruption given to our domestic, as well as foreign Trade, since the last Session, will evince more than any Reasons we can urge, the Necessity of immediately adopting the most effectual Measures for the internal Defence of the State. The great Number of Captures made by the Vessels of the Enemy, on every Part of the American Coast, the Blocking up of the Delaware and the Chesapeake Bays, indicate too clearly that the Change in the System of conducting the War has already began to operate. You will observe from the Letter M^r Morris to the Intendant, that all the accounts of the Army are to be settled up to the End of the last year, that Congress take upon themselves the whole Business of feeding, cloathing and paying the Army for the present, and succeeding years, for which Purposes they have called upon the States for sufficient Supplies; and that partial Advances made by the States to their Officers or Men for pay due after the Commencement of the present Year, will not be admitted as Charges against the United States, nor suffered to be deducted out of the Pay of those receiving the Advances. In Consequence of those Regulations, we take the Liberty

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