

the Subject and the limited Powers we possess We conceive the Application in the first Instance must be to the General Assembly. The Constitution no where entrusts the Executive with Authority to redress the Complaints and Grievances of our Citizens. The Governor and Council indeed may remove or suspend particular Officers and the Governor may grant Pardons and Reprieves but all the other Powers of Magistracy which our Constitution suffers to be exercised belong solely to the judicial Department.

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It appearing from the Memorial, that the Injury complained of was done by a Subject of the French Nation and therefore the Redress sought for as a Matter of Right can only be obtained by a National Interference. It is true the Subject of our Nation when injured by the Subject of another naturally applies to the Executive of his own Country for the means of Satisfaction but this we presume is proper only where such Executive is invested with Powers to Demand reparation and to enforce it by War or Reprisals on a Refusal. The Prerogative of making War or granting Reprisals does not belong to Us nor indeed does the Power belong to the Legislative Authority itself: it is lodged by the Confederation of the States solely with Congress. They are the Supreme Executive in Matters of War and Peace and they are competent to the Subject of the Memorial.—

The Delegates to Congress are not of our Appointment nor Subject to our Removal or Suspension, nor does the Constitution empower us in any one single Case to instruct them on any One Subject: We could not therefore with any Propriety forward the Memorial to them with Commands to lay the Same before Congress, and to insist on a National Demand of Satisfaction: this we apprehend can only be done Constitutionally by the General Assembly, therefore we humbly submit the Memorialists and their Case to y[our] Justice and Wisdom.—

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Wednesday 28th May 1783

Present His Excellency the Governor

Benj. Stoddert, Gabriel Duvall, James Brice and John H. Stone Esquires

Ordered that the western shore Treasurer pay to William Roland Esq^r five pounds, ten shillings specie agreeable to the "Act to adjust the Debts due from this State" per Account passed.—

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[W^m Paca in Council to Doct^r Philip Thomas.]

Be pleased to order to be delivered to Capt Chapline $\frac{1}{4}$ Ct. pounds of Powder and half as much lead to enable him to restore the like Quantity, borrowed from the Citizens on a sudden Emergency.

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