

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1783.

[P A P E R No. VI.]

The CONTRACT entered into by the honourable J. ADAMS, in behalf of the United States, with Holland, for a loan of five millions of florins.

TRANSLATION from the DUTCH.

Minuted on a seal of 48 fivers.

(Signed) VAN HOLZ, notary.

ON the 11th day of June, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two, appeared before me, Pieter Galenus Van Hole, notary of Amsterdam, admitted by the honourable court of Holland,

The honourable John Adams, Esquire, minister plenipotentiary on the part of the United States of America, by their High Mightinesses the Lords States General of the United Netherlands, &c. &c. in quality, as especially qualified and authorized by the above-mentioned States of America in Congress assembled, for and in behalf of the said States of America, to raise a loan with any person or persons, states or companies, with full power and authority in good faith to ratify and fulfill all that shall be done in this respect by him, honourable appearer, according to authentic copy and translation of the original commission or power exhibited to me, notary, and deposited in my custody, in behalf of the joint money lenders.

The honourable appearer residing in the Hague, but being now in this city.

And the honourable appearer acknowledged himself, in his aforesaid quality, and thus in the name and in behalf of the above-mentioned States of America, to be fully and lawfully indebted to and in behalf of sundry persons, or money lenders in all a sum of one million of guilders, Dutch current money, arising from and on account of so much ready money received by him, honourable appearer, in his aforesaid quality, to his personal satisfaction, from the said money lenders, in consequence of the receipt hereafter mentioned, to be signed by the honourable appearer under the authentic copies hereof, expressly and formally disavowing the execute of sundry monies.

And the honourable appearer promised, in his aforesaid quality, to repay in this city the said sum of one million of guilders, free from all costs, charges and damages, to the above mentioned money lenders, or their assigns, at the expiration of fifteen years after the 1st day of June, 1783; and that in the following manner, to wit:

That the above-mentioned capital shall remain fixed during the space of ten years, and that with the eleventh year, and thus on the first day of June, 1793, a fifth part, or two hundred thousand guilders of the said capital of one million, shall be redeemed, and in the same manner from year to year until the 1st day of June, 1797, inclusive, so that the whole capital shall be redeemed and discharged within the above-mentioned space of fifteen years.

And that for said capital, at first for the whole and afterwards for the residue, at the expiration of every year, interest shall be paid, at the rate of five per cent. in the year commencing the first day of June, 1783, and to continue until the final accomplishment, and that coupons to be signed by or for account of said honourable appearer in his aforesaid quality.

That the above-mentioned redeeming shall be performed by drawing in presence of a notary and witnesses in this city, after the expiration of the first mentioned ten years, in such a manner that the Nos. of the obligations drawn shall be by times made known in the public papers.

That the payment of the interests, as also the redeeming of the respective periods, shall be made at the compting houses of the hereafter mentioned gentlemen directors, or at such other places within this city, as shall likewise be advertised in the public papers.

That the directors of this negotiation shall be Messrs. Wilhelm et Jan Willink, Nicolaas et Jacob Van Staphorst, and de la Lande et Fynje, merchants of this city, who are, by these presents, thereunto named and appointed by the honourable appearer in his aforesaid quality.

The honourable appearer promising and engaging, in the names of his constituents that the amount of the interests and of the redeemings to be made from time to time of the said capital, shall be in due time remitted to the aforesaid gentlemen directors, their heirs or successors, in good bills of exchange, American products, or in ready money, without any abatement or deduction whatsoever.

That this obligation shall never be subject to any impost or taxes already laid, or in time to come to be laid, in the said United States of America, even in case (which God forbid) any war, hostilities or divisions, should arise between aforesaid United States or any of them, on the one side, and the States of these lands on the other, that the payment of the capital or interests of this obligation can in no wise, nor under any pretext whatsoever, be hindered or delayed.

The honourable appearer in his aforesaid quality, promising and engaging, moreover, for and in the names of the said United States, that there shall never be made by them or on their parts, on any of them in particular, any convention or treaty, public or private, at the making of peace or otherwise, by which the validity and accomplishment of these presents might be prejudiced, or whereby any thing contrary thereto might be stipulated, but that without any exception the contents hereof shall be maintained in full force.

The honourable appearer in his aforesaid quality likewise promises, engages and binds himself by these presents, that this engagement shall be ratified and approved as soon as possible by said United States in Congress assembled, and that authentic copy translation of said ratification, with the original, shall be deposited, in custody of me, notary, to be there kept with said authentic copy translation of the commission or power of him honourable appearer, and the engrossed hereof, for the security of the money lenders, until the above-mentioned capital and interests as aforesaid shall be redeemed and paid off.

And there shall be made of this act (as the honourable appearer in his aforesaid quality consents) above and besides the above mentioned engrossed, one thousand authentic copies, which shall be of the same force and value and have the same effect as the engrossed one, under every one of which copies shall be placed a receipt of one thousand guilders Dutch current money, either on name or in blank, at the choice of the money lenders; to be signed by him honourable appearer, and which receipts shall be respectively numbered from No. 1 to 1000 inclusive, and countersigned by above-mentioned gentlemen directors, and duly attested by me, notary, as a testimony that no more than one thousand obligations are numbered in virtue of this act. All which authentic copies, with the receipts thereunder placed, shall, at the redeeming of the capital, be restored to the bearers.

On failure of prompt payment as well of the capital, as of the interests at the appointed periods, the capital or residue thereof may be demanded by the gentlemen directors in behalf of the money lenders, who shall be then interested therein, and the aforesaid principals and commitments of him, honourable appearer, shall in that case be held and bound to redeem and discharge immediately in one sum the remaining capital with the interests and charges.

For the accomplishment and performance of all the above written the honourable appearer binds in his aforesaid quality, and thus in the names and on the part of the above mentioned United States of America, the said United States of America jointly and each of them in particular, together with all their lands, chattels, revenues, and products, together with imposts and taxes already laid and raised in the same, or in time to come to be laid and raised, and thus of all the United States of America jointly and of each of the same in particular for the whole.

He the honourable appearer renouncing, in the names as above, for that purpose expressly *beneficium divisionis* as likewise *de dacion vel pluribus res debentur*, signifying a retribution of debts, and that when two or more are indebted, each of them can satisfy with the payment of their portion; the honourable appearer promising in his aforesaid quality, never to have recourse to the said or to any other evasions whatsoever.

This being passed (after translation into English was made hereof, and which likewise is signed by the honourable appearer, and deposited in the custody of me the said notary) within Amsterdam aforesaid, in the presence of:

GIDION VICTOR et CORNELIS MARCHANT, } witnesses. (Signed) P. G. VAN HOLZ, notary.

Coll: Faithfully translated from the Dutch, Amsterdam, this 17th day of June, 1783.

Now. JOANNES VERGEFL L Son. (sworn translator.

There are four others of the same tenor and date, numbered 2, 3, 4, 5 making in the whole five million guilders; and each of the said contracts is ratified by congress, and by their order endorsed as follows:

BE it remembered that the five several contracts or engagements entered into by the honourable John Adams, Esq; minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America, to their high mightinesses the lords the States General of the United Netherlands, in behalf of the said United States, bearing date the eleventh day of June in the year 1782, and purporting to be securities each of them for the payment of a million of guilders, Dutch current money, by the United States to certain money lenders under the negotiation of Messrs. Wilhelm et Jan Willink, Nicolaas and Jacob Van Staphorst and de la Lande et Fynje, merchants in Amsterdam, were read in congress, approved and ratified, and the same are hereby ratified and declared obligatory on the said United States.

Done in the State-house, at Philadelphia, by the United States of America in congress assembled, the fourteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord 1783, and in the seventh year of our independence.

JOHN HANSON, president.

[P A P E R No. VII.]

To the United States in congress assembled.

The address and petition of the officers of the army of the United States,

HUMBLY SHAWING,

THAT we, the officers of the army of the United States, in behalf of ourselves and our brethren the soldiers, beg leave, with all proper deference and respect, freely to state to congress, the supreme power of the United States, the great distress under which we labour:

At this period of the war it is with peculiar pain we find ourselves constrained to address your august body,

on matters of a pecuniary nature. We have struggled with our difficulties year after year, under the hopes that each would be the last; but we have been disappointed. We find our embarrassments thicken so fast, and have become so complex, that many of us are unable to go further. In this exigence we apply to congress for relief, as our head and sovereign.

To prove that our hardships are exceedingly disproportionate to those of any other citizens of America, let a recurrence be had to the paymaster's accounts, for four years past. If to this it should be objected, that the respective states have made settlements and given securities for the pay due, for part of that time, let the present value of those nominal obligations be ascertained by the monied men, and they will be found to be worth little in deed; and yet, trifling as they are, many have been under the sad necessity of parting with them, to prevent their families from actually starving.

We complain that shadows have been offered to us, while the substance has been gleaned by others.

Our situation compels us to search for the cause of our extreme poverty. The citizens murmur at the greatness of their taxes, and are astonished that no part reaches the army. The numerous demands, which are between the first collectors and the soldiers, swallow up the whole.

Our distresses are now brought to a point. We have seen all that men can bear—our property is expended—our private resources are at an end—and our friends are wearied out and disgusted with our incessant applications. We therefore most seriously and earnestly beg, that a supply of money may be forwarded to the army as soon as possible. The uneasiness of the soldiers, for want of pay, is great and dangerous; any further experiments on their patience, may have fatal effects.

The promised subsistence or ration of provisions, consisted of certain articles specified in kind and quantity. This ration, without regard, that we can conceive, to the health of the troops, has been frequently altered, as necessity or convenience suggested, generally losing by the change some part of its substance. On an average, not more than seven or eight tenths have been issued; the retained parts were, for a short time, paid for; but the business became troublesome to those who were to execute it. For this, or some other reasons, all regard to the dues as they respected the soldiers, has been discontinued (now and then a trifling gratuity excepted.) As these dues respected the officers, they were compensated during one year and part of another, by an extra ration; as to the retained rations the account for several years remains unsettled; there is a large balance due upon it, and a considerable sum for that or forage.

The clothing was another part of the soldiers hire. The arrearages on that score, for the year 1777, were paid off in continental money, when the dollar was worth about four-pence; the arrearages for the following years, are unliquidated, and we apprehend scarcely thought of, but by the army. Whenever there has been a real want of means, any defect in system, or neglect in execution, in the departments of the army, we have invariably been the sufferers, by hunger and nakedness, and by languishing in an hospital.

We beg leave to urge an immediate adjustment of all dues; that as great a part as possible, be paid, and the remainder put on such a footing as will restore cheerfulness to the army, revive confidence in the justice and generosity of its constituents, and contribute to the very desirable effect of re-establishing public credit.

We are grieved to find, that our brethren, who retired from service on half pay, under the resolution of congress in 1780, are not only destitute of any effectual provision, but are become the objects of obloquy. Their condition has a very discouraging aspect on us, who must sooner or later retire, and from every consideration of justice, gratitude, and policy, demands attention and redress.

We regard the act of congress respecting half pay, as an honourable and just recompence for several years hard service in which the health and fortunes of the officers have been worn down and exhausted. We see with chagrin the odious point of view, in which the citizens of too many of the states endeavour to place the men entitled to it. We hope, for the honour of human nature, that there are none so hardened in the sin of ingratitude, as to deny the justice of the reward. We have reason to believe, that the objection generally is against the mode only. To prevent, therefore, any altercations and distinctions, which may tend to injure that harmony which we ardently desire may reign throughout the community, we are willing to commute the half pay pledged, for full pay, for a certain number of years, or for a sum in gross, as shall be agreed to by the committee sent with this address. And in this we pray, that the disabled officers and soldiers, with the widows and orphans of those, who have expended, or may expend their lives in the service of their country, may be fully comprehended. We also beg, that some mode may be pointed out for the eventual payment of those soldiers, who are the subjects of the resolution of congress, of the 13th May, 1778.

To the representation now made, the army have not a doubt that congress will pay all that attention, which the serious nature of it requires. It would be criminal in the officers to conceal the general dissatisfaction which prevails, and is gaining ground in the army, from the pressure of evils and injuries, which, in the