

should have full power to ascertain and fix the western limits of those states that claim to the Mississippi or South Sea.

“ That this state considered themselves justly entitled to a right in common with the other members of the union, to that extensive tract of country which lies to the westward of the frontiers of the United States, the property of which was not vested in, or granted to, individuals, at the commencement of the present war; that the same had been, or might thereafter be gained from the king of Great-Britain or the native Indians by the blood and treasure of all, and ought therefore to be a common estate, to be granted out on terms beneficial to all the United States, and that they should use their utmost endeavours that an article to that effect be made part of the confederation.

“ That this state would contribute their quota of men and money towards carrying on the present war with Great-Britain, for the purpose of establishing the freedom and independence of the United States, according to such rule of proportion as should be determined by the United States in congress assembled, and would pay their proportions of all money issued or borrowed by congress, or which might thereafter be issued or borrowed for the purpose aforesaid; and that this state would accede to, and faithfully execute, all treaties which had been or should be made by authority of congress, and would be bound and governed by the determination of the United States in congress assembled, relative to peace or war.

“ That this state hath upon all occasions shewn her zeal to promote and maintain the general welfare of the United States of America; that upon the same principle they are of opinion a confederation of perpetual friendship and union between the United States is highly necessary for the benefit of the whole; and that they are most willing and desirous to enter into a confederation and union, but at the same time such confederation should in their opinion be formed on the principles of justice and equity.”

Which resolves, remonstrance and instructions, were by our delegates laid before congress, and the objections therein made to the confederation were submitted in writing to their consideration, and the several points fully discussed and debated, and the alterations and amendments proposed by our delegates to the confederation, in consequence of the aforesaid instructions by us to them given, were rejected, and no satisfactory reasons assigned for the rejection thereof.

We do therefore Declare, That we esteem it fundamentally wrong, and repugnant, to every principle of equity and good policy, on which a confederation between free, sovereign, and independent States, ought to be founded, that this, or any other state, entering into such confederation, should be burthened with heavy expences for the subduing and guarantying immense tracts of country, if they are not to share any part of the monies arising from the sales of the lands within those tracts, or be otherwise benefited thereby. In conformity to this our opinion, the sentiments of our constituents, in justice to them and ourselves, and least such construction should hereafter be put on the undefined expressions contained in the third article of the confederation, and the proviso to the ninth (according to which “ no state is to be deprived of territory for the benefit of the United states”) as may subject all to such guaranty as aforesaid, and deprive some of the said states of their right in common to the lands aforesaid,

We declare, that we mean not to subject ourselves to such guaranty, nor will we be responsible for any part of such expence, unless the third article and proviso aforesaid, be explained so as to prevent their being hereafter construed in a manner injurious to this state. Willing however to remove, as far as we can, consistently with the trust conferred upon us, every other objection on our part to the confederation, and anxiously desirous to cement, by the most indissoluble ties, that union which has hitherto enabled us to resist the artifices and the power of Great-Britain, and conceiving ourselves, as we have heretofore declared, justly entitled to a right in common with the other members of the union to that extensive country lying to the westward of the frontiers of the United States, the property of which was not vested in, or granted to, individuals, at the commencement of the present war,

We declare, that we will accede to the confederation, provided an article or articles be added thereto, giving full power to the United States in congress assembled, to ascertain and fix the western limits of the states claiming to extend to the Mississippi or South-Sea, and expressly reserving and securing to the United States a right in common in and to all the lands lying to the westward of the frontiers as aforesaid, not granted to, surveyed for, or purchased by, individuals, at the commencement of the present war, in such manner that the said lands be sold out, or otherwise disposed of, for the common benefit of all the states, and that the money arising from the sale of those lands, or the quit-rents reserved thereon, may be deemed and taken as part of the monies belonging to the United States, and as such, be appropriated by congress towards defraying the expences of the war, and the payment of interest on monies borrowed or to be borrowed, on the credit of the United States, from France, or any other European power, or for any other joint benefit of the United States.

We do farther declare, that the exclusive claim set up, by some states to the whole western country, by extending their limits to the Mississippi or South-Sea, is in our judgment without any