

solid foundation, and we religiously believe will, if submitted to, prove ruinous to this state, and to other states similarly circumstanced, and in process of time be the means of subverting the confederation, if it be not explained by the additional article or articles proposed, so as to obviate all misconstruction and misinterpretation of those parts thereof that are herein before specified.

We entered into this just and necessary war, to defend our rights against the attacks of avarice and ambition; we have made the most strenuous efforts during the prosecution of it, and we are resolved to continue them until our independence is firmly established: hitherto we have successfully resisted, and we hope, with the blessing of Providence, for final success. If the enemy, encouraged by the appearance of divisions among us, and the hope of our not confederating, should carry on hostilities longer than they otherwise would have done, let those be responsible for the prolongation of the war and all its consequent calamities, who, by refusing to comply with requisitions so just and reasonable, have hitherto prevented the confederation from taking place, and are therefore justly chargeable with every evil which hath flowed and may flow from such protractation.

INSTRUCTIONS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of MARYLAND, to George Plater, William Paca, William Carmichael, John Henry, James Forbes, and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Esquires.

Gentlemen,

HAVING conferred upon you a trust of the highest nature, it is evident we place great confidence in your integrity, abilities, and zeal to promote the general welfare of the United States, and the particular interest of this state, where the latter is not incompatible with the former. But to add greater weight to your proceedings in congress, and to take away all suspicion that the opinions you there deliver, and the votes you give, may be the mere opinions of individuals; and not resulting from your knowledge of the sense and deliberate judgment of the state you represent, we think it our duty to instruct you in the several following particulars, and we do not doubt you will make it yours; strenuously to endeavour to carry these instructions into effect.

Wherefore we instruct you to move for, and to obtain, if possible, some effectual rule for shortening the debates in congress, and when obtained to enforce a strict observance of the rule.

You must be fully sensible, gentlemen, that it is of the utmost importance, the people at large should entertain the highest opinion of the integrity and wisdom of congress; if either should be questioned, the respect due to that assembly, and hitherto paid to it, will diminish, and in proportion to that diminution, it will lose of its dignity and influence. Delegates to congress therefore ought not only to be honest, but free even from the imputation of dishonesty. Reports have circulated much to the disadvantage of some of the delegates; they have been accused of combining with the monopolizers and engrossers of the necessaries of life, and sharing in the iniquitous gain. The resolves of congress, recommending proper measures and laws to check those pernicious practices, will lose much of their efficacy and force, while members of their own body, under the suspicion of the same guilt, are suffered to retain their seats in that assembly. We know the congress have not the power of expulsion; yet it is the duty of the members to be watchful each one over the conduct of the other, and when suspicions of misconduct, such as have been mentioned, prevail, to inform thereof the respective states represented by the person or persons so suspected, that their conduct may be enquired into by the proper authority, and the delinquents punished according to their demerits. If you cannot by other means prevent, at least discourage by your example such dishonourable practices.

We call for your strictest attention to, and vigilance in, the management and expenditure of the public revenue. The treasures of both the Indies would not suffice to carry on this war, if as little oeconomy is to be used for the time to come, as has been observed for the time past. All persons entrusted with public money should be called to a frequent and strict account. This wise and necessary maxim, we understand, hath in practice been reversed. Millions have been granted to commissaries and quarter-masters-general, and to others, and their accounts to this day remain unsettled, and congress knows not at this late hour how those sums have been applied, whether faithfully and thriftily, to the purposes for which they were granted, or converted to the private emolument of the officers aforesaid, or squandered by their underlings. And we cannot express our astonishment at the conditions upon which the commissary and quarter-master-general are employed. We are informed, they draw a commission on all the monies disbursed for the use of their respective departments; their profits therefore must rise in proportion to those disbursements, and operate as an encouragement of unthriftiness and dilapidation.

Wherefore we do instruct you to move for an "order of congress, to call before them at least twice in the year the commissaries and quarter-master-general, the surveyor, physician, and surgeon-general, to render an account not only of their conduct in the execution of their respective trusts, but also of all monies issued to them and expended by themselves, or by the deputies and agents employed under them in their several departments."

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