

bition, or if the thought was seriously entertained, the lands are now claimed to reap an immediate profit from the sale.

We are convinced policy and justice require, that a country unsettled at the commencement of this war, claimed by the British crown, and ceded to it by the treaty of Paris, if wrested from the common enemy by the blood and treasure of the thirteen states, should be considered as a common property, subject to be parcelled out by congress into free, convenient and independent governments, in such manner and at such times as the wisdom of that assembly shall hereafter direct.

Thus convinced, we should betray the trust reposed in us by our constituents, were we to authorise you to ratify on their behalf the confederation, unless it be farther explained. We have coolly and dispassionately considered the subject; we have weighed probable inconveniencies and hardships against the sacrifice of just and essential rights; and do instruct you not to agree to the confederation, unless an article or articles be added thereto in conformity with our declaration; should we succeed in obtaining such article or articles, then you are hereby fully empowered to accede to the confederation.

That these our sentiments respecting the confederation may be more publicly known, and more explicitly and concisely declared, we have drawn up the annexed declaration, which we instruct you to lay before congress, to have it printed, and to deliver to each of the delegates of the other states in congress assembled copies thereof, signed by yourselves, or by such of you as may be present at the time of the delivery, to the intent and purpose that the copies aforesaid may be communicated to our brethren of the United States, and the contents of the said declaration taken into their serious and candid consideration.

Also, we desire and instruct you to move at a proper time, that these instructions be read to congress by their secretary, and entered on the journals of congress. We have spoken with freedom, as becomes freemen; and we sincerely wish, that these our representations may make such an impression on that assembly, as to induce them to make such addition to the articles of confederation, as may bring about a permanent union.

Upon reading a second time the said instructions, the question was put, That the house concur therewith? Resolved in the affirmative.

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messrs	Sewell,	Hall,	Diggs,	Rowie,	Bond,	Hughes,
	Thomas,	Maccubbin,	Doye,	Magruder,	Norris,	Bayly,
	Mackall,	H. Ridgely,	Stevenson,	Quynn,	Mason,	Cramphin,
	Lloyd,	Chew,	Hammond,	Goldsbrough,	Potter,	Crabb,
	Wilmer,	Harrison,	Veazey,	Gibson,	Sprigg,	Burgess.
	Worthington,	Dent,	Evans,	Brown,		

N E G A T I V E.

Mel.	Maddux,	Jackson,	Ward,	Brice,	Bordley,	Stainton,
	Polk,	Strawbridge,	Job,	Bruff,	Keene,	Chase.

The following message:

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, December 14, 1778.

May it please your honours,

WE have agreed to a declaration, the duplicate whereof was reported to your house by the committee of both houses. And have rejected the instructions reported by same committee, and have agreed to the instructions herewith sent, which we hope you will approve.

By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del.

Being prepared, was sent to the senate by Mr. Bayly and Mr. Mason.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

T U E S D A Y, December 15, 1778.

THE house met. All present as on yesterday, except Mr. Gantt. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The bill, entitled, An act for the relief of certain nonjurors therein named, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate by Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Wilmer.

On motion, leave given to bring in a bill for the payment of the journal of accounts. ORDERED, That Mr. Chase, Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Strawbridge, do prepare and bring in the same.

The following resolve:

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, December 15, 1778.

RESOLVED, That the memorial from the chevalier D'Anmours, the French Consul, now residing in the state of Maryland, be referred to the consideration of the next session of assembly; and