

questions might be made, and we know  
of no Reason that can be given for it, but that we might have a greater Opportunity to show  
Virtue; and as the Opportunities we have already had have been great enough, it would seem  
to be romantic to wish for any greater. It was has been carried on without Money, it has been  
in small States, or for a short Time, or under the feudal Tenures, where every Man was a Soldier,  
and yielded personal Service. But in our Situation Money is undoubtedly the Power of War, and  
it would be difficult, if not wholly impossible to carry it on, for any long Time, without it —  
If your Honours are of Opinion, "that the Sale of the Back Lands will be a Resource to carry on the  
War, even if internal Loans should not supply the Deficiency of Taxes". We are of the same  
Opinion. And from this very Circumstance is overthrown your Honours Reasoning with regard  
to the Property in Question, for if it will prove any Thing it will prove too much, and the Back  
Lands cannot be confiscated. If they belong to the Native Indians, your Honours will say, that tho' they  
have made War against us yet their Property cannot be confiscated, for Battell, a late and celebrated  
Writer on the Law of Nations, has shown, "that the Rigour of that Law is much softened in this very Point, by  
present Usage and Practice? If they belong to the Crown of Great Britain, as Trustees for the Nation, as  
we conceive, and will be called British Property, tho' Congress should they adopt the same Way of think-  
ing with your Honours, will not be willing to confiscate it, as it may be made a preliminary Article  
of the Peace, that it be secured or at least the full Value of it, to the original Owners". May it they  
should not adopt the Sentiments of your Honours, but be willing to confiscate it, yet will there not  
be Danger, in the Opinion of your Honours, that as in the mean Time "the Title must be doubtful,  
and the Purchase invidious". Congress and Speculators will buy it up, and depreciate the Currency  
still more? For as your Honours would suppose, the more readily Money will buy Lands, the more  
widely it is depreciated. But it lies upon your Honours, who have started these Difficulties in the  
one Case, to resolve them in the other. For with regard to the Preliminary, of which your Honours are  
so apprehensive, if it is made a Preliminary with regard to the Property in Question, will it not also be made  
a Preliminary with regard to the Back Lands, which have belonged to the Crown and People of Great Britain?  
May, will it not <sup>more</sup> probably be made a Preliminary with regard to those Lands, than with regard to the  
Property in Question? In the one Case a solid Emolument will arise to the Crown and to the Nation, in  
the other to those only who have manifested an Attachment to it. In the one Case Interest will induce  
the Enemy to make it a Preliminary, in the other a sense of Honour only; and in proportion as the  
Love of Interest is stronger in the British Court than the Love of Honour, so much the more the Law  
will not regard willing will they be to make one a Preliminary Article, and to neglect the other.  
We may be assured the Crown will not regard <sup>the Property of</sup> those Subjects, of whom we speak, so much as to continue  
the War a single Day on their Account. Did this Property remain unalienated, and it appeared that the  
bare Mention of it might obtain it, it is possible that Court might, to save Appearance, be induced  
to mention it. But when it is applied and gone, they will be silent; for having lost thirteen States,  
and vast Tracts of Crown Lands for themselves, they will not much contend for others, whom they  
know only as Rotamiers on their Army, or the Obnoxious of America. But should we not be willing  
to make any Preliminary about it, we shall have all America interested with us. The Property  
of British Subjects, and those of them called Refugees, through the several States, are already  
in the same Predicament with the Objects of our Bill. The several States of America are there-  
fore with us, and if it must be made a Preliminary at all, let the States make it. But your Ho-  
nours may rest satis-<sup>fyed</sup> that as the general Interest is concerned, the States will not make it a  
Preliminary. — From these Principles we must conceive, that the fears and Apprehensions  
of your Honours are groundless; we have shown that your Reasonings are so, for, through the  
whole of the Message, every Sentence is at Variance with the rest, and, if we grant what you  
suppose in the one Case it destroys what you suppose in the other. — There are several other Mat-  
ters in your Message (foreign to the Question, and which we think ought to have been omitted) that de-  
serve our Animadversion, but we shall conclude. We do not think it necessary to send you a Bill to  
prevent the Removal or Transfer of British Property. The Law of Nations will be as good a Security  
as any Law we could possibly obtain you Assent to. Whoever attempts to remove a purchase, will be an-  
swerable to the State.