

western territory as unjust, and injurious to the general welfare; our sentiments on this point are not in the least altered, and we are not without hope, that subsequent events have confirmed in part our predictions, and now begin to discover, when perhaps too late, that what were once considered as partial benefits and partial strength, have become general evils and universal weaknesses. Persuaded that a disposition in this state to yield to and gratify the desires of our sister states, in completing the confederation, will improve the spirit of compliance and moderation in others, dreading the effects of the dissolution of the present happy union in case of peace, and desirous that all hopes of the common enemy, and of their partisans amongst us, may be totally destroyed of ever seeing these states reduced under the yoke of Great-Britain, from the want of a permanent and indissoluble union between them, having grounds to believe that our accession to the confederation will be acceptable to our illustrious ally, give satisfaction to his Catholic Majesty, and probably be the means of negotiating loans in Europe, all these motives combined, and co-operating with the present critical situation of public credit, and the pressing exigency of our affairs, have induced us to adopt the measure.

We are of opinion, that public credit would be greatly strengthened, if foreign loans could be obtained; without such resources, or a foreign subsidy, we are apprehensive these states cannot prosecute the war with vigour; we instruct you, therefore, to urge this matter in congress, particularly to enforce the necessity of a subsidy from France or Spain, or from both those powers. The independence of these states, in the same proportion that it will weaken the strength of Great-Britain and diminish her trade, will raise the commerce and maritime power of France and Spain. Our cause is their cause.

We have understood, that the minister of his Catholic Majesty has intimated to the minister of the United States at Madrid, the strong desire of his master to possess the exclusive navigation of the Mississippi; though we do not wish to preclude that freedom of decision, which ought to result from a full consideration of the subject, yet, as you may be desirous to know the sentiments of the legislature on this question, it may be proper to inform you, that we are willing you should gratify the wish of his Catholic Majesty in this particular, not doubting that a cession so important may induce that monarch to afford us powerful assistance.

Convinced that there will be no stability in any paper money, whilst the old emissions continue in circulation, we have agreed to call in the quota of this state by exchange, and have established an ample fund for the redemption of the new bills; and you are to contribute all in your power to the views of congress of speedily calling in the old emissions, on which measure we apprehend the vigorous exertions of the States much depend.

You are strenuously to move congress to an immediate removal of the British convention troops, now at Frederick-town, more northward; they were received there at first, because there was no other place in this state so far from the water where they could be covered, under an expectation that they would have been soon exchanged; that in the mean time they would have been under their old guard, and that the meat provision for them would have been supplied in part by Virginia; though disappointed in every circumstance, we should not have urged their removal for our convenience only, but our strength and safety so much depend on the measure, that the conventioners cannot be left with us.

It will be impossible to convey supplies of provision from this state to the southern army, unless the navigation of Chesapeake-bay is better secured; the resources of this state and Virginia are not equal to the securing this navigation; we fear the whole force of the United States is inadequate to the purpose, we therefore wish that congress would represent this matter in the most forcible manner to the minister of France, and urge the propriety, indeed the necessity, of a post being taken and fortified, and a strong fleet stationed within our capes, to cruise occasionally on the coast. Your knowledge of the importance of the trade carried through this bay, and of the many advantages which would result to France and the United States from protecting the commerce and agriculture of Maryland and Virginia, and the convenience of the station for intercepting the enemy's communication between New-York and South-Carolina and Georgia, renders it needless for us to adduce arguments in proof of the utility or necessity of the measure.

Judging from our knowledge of the ability and resources of this state to raise men and money, and the best information we can acquire of the numbers, abilities, and resources, of the others, we cannot but be of opinion we are greatly over-rated, and therefore instruct you to move in congress, that the quota of this state in men and money may be lessened.

The frequent actions our troops have been engaged in thinned our line, and the late disastrous battle near Camden has added considerably to their former losses. It is not in the power of this state to fill up the vacancies occasioned by such untoward events; we think that the deficiency in the army of the confederated states, occasioned by sickness and the sword during a campaign, ought to be divided among the several states, in proportion to the original quotas assigned to each. Unless such a rule be adopted, it may happen, that one state may be called upon to raise a double proportion of men, to fill up for the losses of the preceding campaign. The inequality of such a rule is evident, and, if persisted in, may occasion the officers, tender of the interests