

opinion, it is our duty to guard against profusion, and to provide against the gradual introduction of lucrative offices, which might injure and corrupt our government in process of time. Not being able to ascertain the fees of office, nor what sums the duties collected in the district of Baltimore, may amount to, we do not pretend to decide on the propriety or impropriety of the commission allowed by the bill; the collection of the duties during three years would furnish the legislature with sufficient data to govern them in the allowance of a commission to be given to the naval officers at the expiration of that time; and therefore we wish the continuance of the law to be restricted to three years; the objections to these parts of your bill we think weighty; but the duties on exports we consider altogether inadmissible at present. It has generally been thought impolitic to lay duties on the export of commodities produced in any country, especially where the same kind of commodities are produced in other states which trade in the same channel, and the commodities produced by all are amply sufficient for the demand; for as in this case the commodities will sell at foreign markets at an equal price, the merchant will estimate the duty in the price given, and of course the duty will fall on the maker, and not the consumer, of the commodity; and thus the incentive to industry will be less in the states imposing a duty, than in those where no duty is laid, or it may induce the citizens of the state where a duty is laid, who live convenient, to use the ports of a neighbouring state, and thus the advantages of shipping will be lost. Consider what effects a duty on wheat and flour exported from this state would have. We have understood, that the supply of those articles from this to foreign countries have for some time been so considerable, and of consequence the price so low, that the exporter has lost money by them; there is no duty on those articles that we know of in the neighbouring states, from which great quantities are exported; we conceive, that should we impose even the duties intended by your bill, before a similar duty is laid by the neighbouring states, the ill effects above stated would be in proportion to the duty imposed. And although it may be said, that the articles of wheat and flour are generally higher in price in Pennsylvania than in Maryland, it may be answered, that this difference of price in the article is made up by savings and other conveniences to the merchant in shipping from their ports, so that the commodity, when it gets to foreign markets, costs him no more exported from Pennsylvania than from Maryland. We believe the price of wheat and flour is less in Virginia than in Maryland, and the convenience of exportation in favour of this state. Some of these objections do not apply to laying a duty on tobacco; the demand for this article being great, the produce being confined in great measure to two states, and the quantity, by the nature of things, limited; but the general principle of not laying duties on exports applies to this article, and we fear, whatever reasons may be urged for the distinction, the makers of tobacco will not be satisfied with an imposition upon their produce, if an equal duty is not laid on the commodities made by those who raise the other great staple of the state.

We think it necessary, that every act raising money from the people, and carrying it into the public treasury for public purposes, ought to contain appropriating clauses at least for the services of the current year; from the want of such a clause in the present bill, we are apprehensive a considerable sum may lie dead several months in our treasury, while it might be usefully turned over to that of the continent. We need not call your attention to the state of the continental treasury; you must know to what a low ebb it is now reduced; and you must be fully sensible of the great importance of keeping it replenished, so as to enable congress to comply with its engagements to the public creditors. A bankruptcy must soon take place, if greater exertions are not made throughout the United States to pay the interest of our national debt; all the consequences of a national bankruptcy cannot be foreseen; but that such an event would greatly disturb our domestic tranquillity, and diminish our weight in the scale of nations, and lessen our national character, must be obvious; it might even be followed by effects still more dreadful, a dissolution of our confederation, anarchy, civil war, and another revolution. In this point of view, the importance of complying with the requisitions of congress for supplies of money, must strike every one; the half of our present assessment, appropriated to congress by the assessment law, will fall greatly short of the just proportion which we ought to pay into the continental treasury, and for this reason we wish that the monies raised from the duties imposed by the bill, should be added to the appropriation just mentioned, made by the assessment law. Induced by these reasons we have given a negative to the bill. As the objections appear weighty to us, and can be so easily removed by you, we doubt not of your returning the bill to us cured of these defects, for our assent.

By order,

J. DORSEY, clk.

BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 21, 1785.

GENTLEMEN,

WE propose that the bill to provide a fund for the relief of the widows and children of the clergy of the protestant episcopal church, should be amended so as to give a right of being members of the corporation to those clergymen of the protestant episcopal church only who are contributors to, and admitted into, the said corporation. For this purpose we propose to strike out the part of the bill objected to by this house, and instead of what we heretofore proposed, after "Edward Gantz, junior," to insert "such other clergymen in the orders and communion of the said church, as may hereafter become residents of this state, and shall be contributors to the said funds of the corporation herein erected, as may be admitted into the said corporation by a majority of the members thereof for the time being, shall be, and are hereby declared to be, &c." If the bill will be more agreeable to your house with this alteration than as formerly proposed to be