

Warrants will be issued, on the treasuries of the respective states, for the quotas to be furnished the 1st day of January next." From these circumstances, and other considerations, we fear congress have not sufficient in their treasury to defray the expences of the war, to the first of February next. We observe with deep concern, that provisions and other necessaries, of the produce of America, wanted for our army, are now above forty fold the prices those articles were before the war. If the prices of things necessary for our army remain as at this day, we may expect a requisition from congress to raise our quota of 270 million of dollars, in nine months from the 1st of February. If this should happen, our people, to raise it by taxes, must pay in the nine months £. 54 of every £. 100 of property they have in the world, besides taxes to support our government. We admire the wisdom of congress in their requisition to pay the taxes monthly into the continental treasury. By this mode only could any reasonable expectation be entertained of stopping the depreciation of the currency. If money cannot be carried into the treasury, as fast as it is called out, congress will probably be reduced to the fatal measure, which they reprobate, of making further emissions. If the monthly expences of congress may be estimated at 15 million of dollars, it is, in our opinion, the duty of the states in the union, to prevent the necessity of further emissions to pay in that sum monthly. Repeated emissions will assuredly accelerate, and in a short time effect the total destruction of the value of our paper money. An annual tax and payment would not answer, we think, the intention and views of congress.

From these considerations we were determined to exert our utmost powers, not only to raise the sum of 14 million 220 thousand dollars, in the nine months, but to make our monthly payment, of 1 million 580 thousand dollars. We took into our most attentive consideration the ways and means to raise the sum, and to make the monthly payments agreeable to the requisition of congress. On an enquiry into, and deliberating the circumstances of our people, we were, and are now of opinion that it is improper and imprudent to impose, and impracticable to raise the 14 million 220 thousand dollars, in the nine months, from the 1st of February to the 1st of October inclusive, by a tax and assessment on property. After a full discussion, we were of opinion, and have now no reason to alter it, that 9 million of dollars would be as much as we could raise by taxes in the nine months. To raise this sum, £. 18 9 for every hundred pound of property must be extracted from the pockets of our people, and many of our house think this too much.

We were and still retain our opinion, that it is not in our power to raise, by taxes, 1 million 580 thousand dollars, before the 1st of February next, because there must be a new assessment of property; it may have changed its owners since the last assessment and it is necessary to adopt some mode to compel the money holders to pay their proportion of the public burthens. We thought and still think it absolutely impracticable to collect monthly taxes from our people. The expence of a number of collectors, from the dispersed situation of our inhabitants, would be very great, and their circumstances will not enable them to pay monthly taxes. The farmers and planters, who contribute the far greater part, would be greatly distressed, and we fear universal discontent would follow the attempt.

Contemplating these difficulties, satisfied that the sum required was beyond the abilities of our constituents, convinced of the impracticability of collecting the one million five hundred and eighty thousand dollars before the first of February, and of the impossibility of raising that sum in each month thereafter until the first of October inclusive, and anxiously solicitous to comply with the requisition of congress, we examined all our resources, and found that without a seizure, confiscation and application, of the British property within the state, we should not be able to surmount the difficulties. We carefully examined the justice, the policy of the measure. We revolved the reasons which presented themselves for and against it. We searched into the law of nations, and were fully satisfied the immutable principles of justice, the law of nature, and the common consent of mankind, justified the measure.

We beg leave here to recapitulate the reasons contained in our bill.—

1. The king of Great-Britain, by his proclamation, and the parliament of that nation, by statute, declared the people of this state to be in rebellion, for which cause, by the law of that kingdom, the property of the people here, who had been concerned in the present glorious revolution, would have been liable to forfeiture and confiscation, and at the mercy of the cruel and tyrannical monarch of Great-Britain.
2. The parliament of Great-Britain, by statute, declared the property of the people of this state found and taken on the high seas, liable to seizure and confiscation, and that it was lawful and just to seize and destroy their persons and property; in consequence whereof considerable property of the subjects of this state hath been seized on the high seas and confiscated, and considerable property within the state hath been seized and applied to the use of the British army or navy, or wantonly destroyed by the fleet or army of Great-Britain.
3. The king and parliament of Great-Britain commenced, and continue to prosecute, an unjust war against the people of this and the United States, whereby this state has already been involved in a very great expence, and by the law of nations the people of Great-Britain, in their separate