

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 distressed 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,