

One part of your message deserves our animadversion, not on account of the strength of the reasoning, but that we may prevent the impression it was evidently calculated to make on the minds of the people.

You assert, that if congress, in consequence of the rapid rise in the prices of the necessaries of life, should be constrained to call on us for our quota of two hundred and seventy millions of dollars, payable in nine months and by monthly assessments, our people, to raise their proportion of that sum within the time limited, must pay fifty-four pounds out of every hundred pounds of property which they possess. This surely you must admit to be an uncandid exaggeration. We pay our taxes not on the present nominal value of our property, but on its old value, and consequently the people, even in the case put, would not pay more than one per cent. on every hundred pounds of their real and true property.

You urge the necessity of the immediate sale of British property, from the requisition of congress to make the first payment of our quota by the first day of February, and from the inability of the people to pay their quota by that time in taxes; and in support of this reasoning you observe, that from the change of property in the country there must be a new assessment. In answer to this, permit us to remark, that in time of war the grant of supplies generally precedes all other business; this, gentlemen, is your own peculiar department; we have now sat near eight weeks, and no supply bill has yet been offered to us; the confiscation bill, which you contend is essential towards the supplies, did not come to us till the fifteenth of this month. We presume you must have had good reasons for the delay; but if there is not now time enough for a new assessment, so that the people may
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