

cannot persuade ourselves that any danger can arise from the delay of a few months, unless indeed it is apprehended, that any part of the property meant to be seized may in the mean time be removed or transferred. It is not our desire or intention that the present owners should avail themselves of the delay, and therefore wish it to be considered by your house, whether a short bill, merely for the prevention of the transfer or removal of British property, may not be proper at this time.—To sum up in a few words what we have said, we are far from being convinced of the justice of confiscating British property; the line drawn by the bill for distinguishing British subjects from our own, is liable to the most forcible objections; we think we have proved that the policy is bad; the necessities of the public are not, in our judgment, such as to justify the seizure and confiscation, in opposition to the dictates of sound policy, and the principles of our constitution; the sum arising from the sales would, we think, for the reasons already suggested, be very inconsiderable, and far short of the real value of the property sold. We could wish the observation, that it is easier to acquire money than to keep it and use it thriftily, were more attended to. Every unnecessary expence should in these times be avoided, economy should be studied and practised; we cannot help regretting the length of our sessions of late, and the heavy burthens that must thereby necessarily fall on the people; we shall not contribute to lengthen the present by more messages on this subject, which we fear will not convince either house, but only serve to protract time and accumulate expence.—We must therefore again call your attention to the essential business now necessary to be done, among which the most important is the recruiting our quota of continental troops;

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