

want of resolution implies weakness, and from this timidity and half-way temper of our counsels, the enemy will be encouraged to persevere longer than they had proposed to do; so that however we admire the moderation, yet we cannot approve the policy of your honours, in thus inviting the enemy to make that a preliminary article, which it is possible would otherwise have escaped them. Certainly if they consider, which undoubtedly they must do, that we have a right to be indemnified for the expences of the war, and for the devallation of our country, they cannot believe that we will resign the property which we have in our possession. If our purses have been drained, and our country wasted, shall our enemy, who have done this, receive the property of their subjects, as they formerly possessed it, or shall we be taxed for the full and real value of it? Your honours must be better acquainted with the sentiments of the people of this country, than to believe it probable that the suggestion can be received but with the utmost indignation. It cannot be received; and the property in question cannot be given up: we have won it with our swords, and we will possess it for ourselves; Providence has put it in our power, and we leave it as a lesson to the world, that those who have fought against liberty have not shared equally with those who have fought for it.

Your honours are apprehensive, that if the property in question is confiscated and sold, engrossers and speculators will become the only purchasers. We do not think it probable that this will be the case. The objects of these men are the necessaries of life, and the commodities of foreign commerce; but, if they should be the purchasers, we cannot help believing, that it will be desirable; for thereby the money, which is
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