

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, $\text{£} .18 \text{ } 9$ 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
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