

5. In the declaration of independence by congress, it was declared, that thereafter the subjects of Great-Britain should be considered by the United States, enemies in war, in peace friends.

6. It is not in the power of this state to raise the money required by congress to carry on the present just and necessary war, without compelling many of its subjects to sell their property to raise the taxes, and justice, policy and necessity, dictate the propriety of first selling and applying the property of our enemies towards defraying the expences of the war.

These reasons convinced our judgment, they determined our action, and we doubt not the impartial world will agree with us in sentiment.

We wish your honours to examine the reasons assigned, to point out your objections to them, and to inform us whether you think that all or none of them will justify and support the measure.

We proposed to raise five million two hundred and twenty thousand dollars from the sale of British property, and to make our first payment, on the 1st of February next, out of part of the money arising from the sale. We determined to raise by taxes nine million of dollars, at four assessments, at such times, and in such proportions, as would suit the circumstances of our constituents; we intended that any deficiencies should be made up by British property, and resolved to pay our quota monthly into the continental treasury.

The debt due from this state is above one million of pounds currency. Our treasury is exhausted; our quota of troops require a considerable reinforcement, and a large sum will be necessary to defray the expence of the recruiting service. We are inclined to think our proportion of the continental debt may exceed twenty-five million of dollars.

If, after contemplating the information we have taken the liberty to give you of our circumstances, you are still inflexibly determined not to seize and appropriate British property, in our power, to enable us to carry on the war, (and we again declare it is not in our power to collect the necessary sums by taxes, without greatly distressing our people, and compelling them to sell their property to pay the assessment) we shall return to our constituents with the consolation,