

tion, that we have endeavoured to do all in our power, and the consequences which may happen, be they ever so great, will not be justly imputable to us.

It now remains for us to express our acknowledgments so justly due to your honours, for the particular instance of your attention and regard to the gentlemen of the eastern shore; but notwithstanding the inclemency of the season and the severity of the weather renders an attendance on the public business, at this time, exceedingly distressing and inconvenient to this house in general, and to the gentlemen of the eastern shore in particular, yet the duty which we owe to our country, the welfare of the public, and a relief to our people from the very heavy taxes which are demanded of them for the prosecution of the war, supersede the obligations of private interest. Governed by these motives, we can assure your honours, that we shall wait with patience the result of your determinations on the very important bill now sent back for your consideration.

We lament, with your honours, that the senate is at this critical period so thin, and regret that measures, calculated to compel the attendance of the members of the general assembly on the public business, have not met with your approbation, notwithstanding the repeated experience both houses must have had of the necessity of adopting some mode to enforce the observation of duties, to which public virtue and a patriotic spirit have not been competent.

By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. hp. dcl.

By the SENATE, December 23, 1779.

GENTLEMEN,

ALTHOUGH by our message accompanying the bill for the seizure and confiscation of British property, returned with a negative, we plainly intimated we had not gone into a full consideration thereof, and assigned our reasons for not going into such a consideration at this session, yet, as in your message by Messieurs J. Hall and others, you urge the passage of the bill, and have adduced some arguments to induce us to alter our resolution, permit us to discuss them with that coolness which the importance of the subject requires.

Justice, policy, and necessity, you say, influence your conduct. It not unfrequently happens, that different ideas of justice, policy,