

been occasioned with any design of raising an argument in favour of the immediate sale of British property, and we are satisfied that, upon further reflection on this subject, and from the reasons we have before given, you will be convinced of the impropriety of such sale, and that it cannot be the wish or desire to raise great emoluments to a few individuals at a certain and heavy loss to the public. We again repeat, we are as sensible as you can be of the weight of taxes that must unavoidably fall on the people, and are equally desirous of lightening their burthens; but we are persuaded we shall never receive their thanks, if, endeavouring by expedients to shun small and temporary inconveniences, we bring upon them much greater future evils.

There was nothing in our message to justify your expression, "if you are still inflexibly determined not to seize and appropriate British property in our power to enable us to carry on the war;" it cannot even be inferred from that message, that we were against such seizure and appropriation: it only intimated our opinion, that a subject so new and so important might properly lie over for the consideration of a future meeting, to receive a fuller discussion. Nothing you have offered has induced us to retract this opinion. We have endeavoured to shew, that the precipitation with which you seem inclined to hurry on this business, may be attended with equal consequences, and we 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