

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 the means of their speculation, will be drawn out of their hands; and if, as your honours seem to suppose, "the title may be doubtful, and the purchase invidious," engrossers and speculators are the best men whose hands it can fall into; for if "they have acquired great sums for little value," they will get nothing, and so your honours and the public resentment against them will for once be gratified. But if these men become purchasers, it will at least argue, that they have some confidence in the success of our cause, which will be an encouragement to your honours, who seem to entertain some doubts of it; for if we hold our own property and that in question by our swords, the title to the one is equally valid with the title to the other. We agree with your honours, that it is not our wish or desire "to raise great emoluments to a few individuals, at a certain and heavy loss to the public." We could wish your honours would manifest an equal instance of moderation, and not be willing to secure *great emoluments* to a few individuals, who have no right to them. We cannot believe your honours will lay us under the necessity of supposing, that any partiality or affection for the old government still remains, or that it can be the wish or desire of any senator to secure the interests of the late proprietary, at a certain and heavy loss to the public.

It is an argument by your honours against the immediate confiscation of the property in question, "that the sale will be too hasty, and that it will be purchased at an under value;" yet you express your wish, that we had informed you, when the last pay-