

preliminary at all, let the states make it. But your honours may rest satisfied, that as the general interest is concerned, the states will not make it a preliminary.

From these principles we must conceive, that the fears and apprehensions of your honours are groundless; we have shewn that your reasonings are so, for, through the whole of the message, every sentence is at variance with the rest, and, if we grant what you suppose in the one case, it destroys what you suppose in the other.

There are several other matters in your message (foreign to the question, and which we think ought to have been omitted) that deserve our animadversion, but we shall conclude.

We do not think it necessary to send you a bill to prevent the removal or transfer of British property. The law of nations will be as good a security as any law we could possibly obtain your assent to. Whoever attempts to remove or purchase, will be answerable to the state.

Our and your appeal is now made to our constituents. We are both bound by what they shall determine. If the people think the right of seizing and confiscating British property is not justified by the law of nature and nations; if they should determine that policy forbids the exercise of the right at this time; or if they should be of opinion, that they can pay, by taxes, 14,220,000 dollars in nine months, or if unable they should prefer the sale of their own property before that of their enemies, this house will comply with their desire; but if they should coincide with us in opinion, we flatter ourselves your honours will not oppose the voice of your country, and stand between them and their enemies, and protect their property from sale, to assist us in prosecuting the war.

As our constituents will have time to express their sentiments, and to give their instructions before the first day of March next, this house intend to adjourn to that day.

By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del.

By the S E N A T E, December 30, 1779.

GENTLEMEN,

TO your long message of this day, by Messieurs Spiigg and Birkhead, on the subject of confiscation, sent us at the moment almost when both houses expected to rise, we presume you do not look for an answer. Decency, however, requires, that we acknowledge the receipt, and that it has been read. Circumstances do not allow us to say more than what in justice to ourselves we are constrained to say, that we remark some misrepresentation, and