

consequence of the clause proposed, which, if made good, will probably be worth an hundred hogsheds of tobacco, so that by a dexterous management of four hogsheds of tobacco, this man pays a debt to the state, worth an hundred hogsheds, and brings the state in debt to him a sum equal to an hundred hogsheds of tobacco, making to himself thereby a clear profit of one hundred and ninety six hogsheds of tobacco. These proceedings appear to us so ruinous to all those of our honestly industrious countrymen, who do not meddle with the game, that they never can receive our sanction, nor can we suppose, when the matter is considered, that it can be desirable to your house to give countenance to such jobbing.

Compassion for those, who have been obliged to receive in payment of old debts the bills issued by congress and this state, perhaps may be pleaded and urged in support of this clause. It may be said, Shall they, who by law were constrained to receive, in discharge of the sums due to them, paper money, at the rate settled by the legislature, and have lent the money to the state, be paid it back at a less value than they were compelled to receive it, by an act of the legislature? Facts, however, will not support the reasoning grounded on this specious assertion. Most probably, few of these injured individuals have lent their money, so received, to the state; they were obliged to expend it to support themselves and families, and many of them are now reduced to beggary, and justice dictates, that those who have benefited themselves by taking advantage of the tender law, should make good the loss their creditors have sustained, but we cannot see the reasonableness, under any pretence of doing justice to those individuals, of taxing the landed interest, to reduce a depreciated currency from six thousand to sixty-six and two thirds per cent. This would be, in many instances, laying an additional burthen on the person aggrieved. The legislature now affords, tho' undesignedly, an opportunity to debtors to discharge their debts with a depreciated currency not equal to a fiftieth part of the debt, and then engages the real estates of those very sufferers to appreciate the money in the hands of those who have so easily acquired it. Public faith can never require, that the legislature of any state should sacrifice the most useful and industrious part of its citizens, to aggrandise