

As to the policy of the proposed measure, and ease to the people of this state, to be derived from it, permit us to observe, that supposing an act was now passed for the seizure and confiscation of British property, there must necessarily be a considerable time spent in the discovery, condemnation, sale, and turning into money, such part of this property as you wish to dispose of; so that we apprehend, no great ease from the present tax would be given by a sale of any part of it, nor that a mortgage of the residue, as a specific fund, would add such credit to the new bills to be issued by congress, as duties and taxes judiciously laid, carefully collected, and faithfully applied, especially as this property is to be appropriated, in the first place, to pay all the just claims of this state and the subjects thereof on Great-Britain. Besides, the retention of this property, and the final disposal of it for the uses by you proposed, are not of that nature, as to be necessarily connected with the establishment of our independence; for it cannot escape any person, that there is at least a probability that a restitution of this property will be insisted on by Great-Britain, in the negotiation for peace which must some time or other take place between the present belligerent powers; and it will appear equally probable to every person who will give himself the trouble to think on the subject, that the war will not be protracted for the sake of our holding this property. Hence it seems unreasonable to expect, that the new bills will derive an additional credit, from the mortgage of a precarious property, which probably may no longer be subject to the direction and application of the legislature, when the term for the redemption of the bills arrives. A restoration of that property to the present owners, or the payment of its true value, will destroy the funds; and either may happen, although our independence should be completely established, in conformity to the wishes of every virtuous American.

You strenuously insist on the necessity of confiscating the property of individuals, and mortgaging it as a fund for redeeming the new bills to be issued by congress, although that fund would certainly be precarious, for the reasons already assigned, and consequently give but little value or credit to those bills; and yet you have not proposed to appropriate our proportion of the back lands to this very purpose.