

duties, rather than submit to the disgraceful and galling yoke of Great-Britain; even was the burthen much heavier, we hope the alternative would scarce be balanced in the minds of our constituents; and we are satisfied a wise effectual application of part of the profits of their property, not only to secure the remainder from rapine and plunder, but their lives, liberty, and character, from ruin, will never be a cause of discontent.

They have been appealed to on the subject of confiscating British property, and we may fairly conclude that they do not expect, at this stage of the war, that property to be applied to carry it on, which at its commencement was not considered as liable to be appropriated to any such use.

We shall have no objection hereafter, when time and circumstances will admit, to establish an office to enquire into and ascertain what lands, lying within this state, are vacant, not laid out, and unappropriated, which did belong to the late proprietary, in virtue of his seigniority only; and shall be willing, on the said lands being discovered and laid out, to apply them on just terms, in discharge of the engagements of this state to the officers and soldiers who may be entitled to the same, in consequence of promises heretofore made. This we shall have time to do, if no other lands are appropriated to this purpose, before the period for fulfilling our engagement arrives.

We have well weighed and considered the questions, which arise on the bill sent us, and which we rejected, and the more we reflect, the stronger appear the arguments in support of our conduct, and the principles upon which our bill was grounded. We have no repugnance to pass any law affecting the property referred to in your bill, which can in any manner be reconcilable to our ideas of justice, and are extremely willing and desirous to give every assistance in our power for effectually and resolutely supporting the cause of our country, to the final success of which nothing will more contribute than harmony among those who are to conduct the public councils; this we shall always be happy to cultivate and improve, nor shall we ever afford just grounds for its interruption. But we hope it is not expected, that to obtain this harmony and good understanding, we must tamely acquiesce in and submit to opinions and measures,