

It has been very judiciously treated a few years past by a gentleman in Annapolis, who, besides the exercise of his public office, has rendered essential service by devoting his talents to the information and instruction of the public; but as he adopted the unpopular side of the argument, it is probable his productions have neither been so much read or attended to, as they merited.

The people in general, it is certain, judge from their feelings, and in proportion as they are affected, may be disposed to catch at what they deem a present remedy, without considering its consequences, or indeed without being properly assured, that it may prove a remedy of any kind.

In the present instance, the scarcity of money, and the distresses of the people are circumstances too apparent to be questioned, and if they were, few writers, I believe, would be qualified to disprove them.

But whether any mode of redress can be easily pointed out, or whether an emission of paper money would contribute to their relief, may very well be doubted.

It is probable that the causes of the distressed situation of the people may not be thoroughly understood.—They are many and various, and some of them of such a nature as the utmost industry and caution, could with difficulty, have guarded against.—The calamities occasioned by the war are of this class.—They were severely and extensively felt.—But it is the accumulation of these, with old British debts, now pressing on them with an interest nearly equal to the principal, and the addition of new ones which have been, through necessity, contracted, that has reduced them to their present state.

The scene is a melancholy one, but it is doubtful whether it can be changed by the assistance of a paper currency, or whether any such temporary expedient, can extricate those, whose whole property, if sold at a reasonable price, would scarcely exonerate them from the load of their debts.

Admitting for a moment that the money would retain its value so as to answer any general purpose, the immediate application of it to the most pressing occasions might bring a present relief and put off the evil day.—But it would certainly come at last; for whatever indulgence individuals might expect from the public, the property pledged for the redemption of the money, would at length fall under the accumulated weight