

be unappropriated money in the treasury to answer that purpose, and accordingly we find that the Governor and Council, in the act for enlarging their powers, were directed to appoint some person to purchase certificates with the public money for the use of the State.

So confidently and boldly, was this plan recommended to the House, that a man must have incurred the reputation of having lost his senses who had ventured to utter a sentiment against it.

One conclusive argument indeed seemed to be urged in its favor—its absolute necessity—Was the measure impolitic?—We should be ruined without it.—Was it dishonest?—Nothing else could save us from destruction.

Risking, however, the imputation, of want of knowledge on the subject, I shall venture to offer some observations on it, and could wish that I had ability to paint it in colours as black as those in which it appears to me.

In order to judge properly on the subject, it will be necessary for a moment, to throw aside those interested views, which seem to have taken such entire possession of us—let us then examine into the relative situation of this State and the devoted persons to whom certificates have been granted.

It would be unnecessary to trace down the different engagements of Congress, under which they were obtained,—it will be sufficient to observe, that the persons to whom they were granted, had an undoubted claim to the sums specified in them, for the services which they had performed.

These, and other obligations, necessarily entered into, were the fruits of an expensive war, the beneficial consequences of which, every State experienced, and the expenses of which every State, was bound in honor to support.

The debt, though heavy, is a just one.—But unfortunately it is found to be so enormous, that nothing can save us from destruction, but the paying it off, with one-sixth of its value.—Burthened as the people are, it would be madness to dispute the expediency of this measure, if it could be adopted without injustice.—But that is impossible.—One party must lose, in proportion as the other gains, and the event must be, that the Auditors of the States are to be content with one-sixth part of their claims, to relieve their countrymen from the distressing obligation of paying the entire amount of them.