

of which it is composed, have a right, consistently with justice, to take away?

Another argument is, that we shall make our purchases from other States.—But it hardly deserves a moment's consideration:—The same interested, and unjust principle may prevail throughout the continent, and when one State buys up the securities of the other; the evil will go on in progression, through the whole, and the sufferings of the parties will not be lessened by the reflection, that their neighbouring States, instead of their own, have taken advantage of their necessities.—But, bad as this state of the case is, it is not the worst.—In answer to the complaints which have been made, it has been alledged, that Congress should be applied to, and that, whatever might be the inclination of the separate States, it was out of their power to extend any partial relief.

Admitting this principle in its full force, there surely appeared to be a necessity of complying with the requisitions of Congress, in order to enable that body to do justice.

How will the conduct of this State stand the test?—Congress by their resolve of September, 1785, declared, that any State, after paying into the continental treasury, a certain part of the sum required, might issue the amount of the remainder in certificates for the interest due on the final settlements, which should be receivable in taxes.

A compliance with this request, might have justified the State, in referring the claimants to Congress.

Certain it is, however, that during this session, no disposition was shewn to comply with it; the idea appeared to be totally given up, long before the last report from Congress, which procured the act for the ten shilling tax, which I have already mentioned.

From this circumstance and the fixed design of entering upon the purchase of certificates, what must we suppose to have been the sentiments of the Assembly, and the language fitted to convey them?—Something like the following—

“Congress have recommended it to us to pay the interest on certificates,—this, if complied with, will increase their value, but we want to buy them ourselves—we must therefore, do all in our power to keep them down; and not suffer justice to get the better of interest.”—This conduct must speak for itself, for I cannot find words to express my abhorrence of it.

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