

a part of them, Millions might in Time be brought into the public Treasury, and in the mean while great sums could probably be advanced on that Security; Money may be borrowed in Europe, and of this we suppose the Congress have Assurance, by the late Notice of their Intention to draw Bills of Exchange to the Amount of £200,000 Sterling. The Enemy's Hope, that a Bankruptcy would disable us from prosecuting the War, like all other delusive Hopes, even should that happen, would vanish into Disappointment; for we cannot concur with your Assertion, that our Paper Currency is the only Means of carrying on the War; Numbers of People, and plenty of the Necessaries of Life, Steel and Iron, and not Gold and Silver, much less Paper, are the true Securities of War. A brave, free, disciplined and virtuous People, possessing a Country abounding with the former Advantages, can never be subdued; if they are not virtuous, it will be the fault of their Rulers in not setting them the Examples of Disinterestedness, Magnanimity and Justice.

One Part of your Propage deserves our Animadversion, not on Account of the Strength of the Reasoning, but that we may prevent the Impression it was evidently calculated to make on the Minds of the People. You assert, that if Congress, in Consequence of the rapid Rise in the Prices of the Necessaries of Life, should be constrained to call on us for our Quotas of two hundred and seventy Millions of Dollars, payable in nine Months and by monthly Installments, our People, to raise their Proportion of that Sum within the Time limited, must pay fifty four Pounds out of every hundred Pounds of Property which they possess. This surely you must admit to be an unbounded Exaggeration. We pay our Taxes not on the present nominal Value of our Property, but on its old Value, and consequently the People, even in the Case put, would not pay more than one Cent on every hundred Pounds of their real and true Property. You urge the immediate Sale of British Property, from the Proquisition of Congress to make the first Payment of our Quota by the first Day of February, and from the Inability of the People to pay their Quota by that Time in Taxes; and in support of this Reasoning, you observe, that from the Change of Property in the Country there must be a new Assessment. In Answer to this, permit us to remark, that in Time of War the Grant of Supplies generally precedes all other Business; this, Gentlemen, is your own peculiar Department; we have now sat near eight Weeks, and no Supply Bill has yet been offered to us; the Expatriation Bill, which you contend is essential towards the Supplies did not come to us till the fifteenth of this Month. We presume you must have had good Reasons for the Delay; but if there is not now Time enough for a new Assessment, so that the People may be timely informed of what they will have to pay on the first of February, and to make a Provision for such Payment, we trust you will not complain it as our Fault, who have nothing more to do than to pass or reject the Bills framed by you for this Purpose. Although Circumstances might justify the Remark, we cannot suppose the Delay has been occasioned with any Design of raising an Argument in favour of the immediate Sale of British Property, and we are satisfied, that upon further Reflection on this Subject, and from the Reasons we have before given, you will be convinced of the Inpropriety of such Sale, and that it cannot be the Wish or Desire to raise great Emoluments to a few Individuals at a certain and heavy Loss to the Public. We again repeat, we are as sensible as you can be of the Weight of Taxes, that must unavoidably fall on the People, and are equally desirous of lightening their Burthens; but we are persuaded we shall never receive their Thanks, if, endeavouring by Expedients to shun small and temporary Inconveniences, we bring upon them much greater future Evils.