

Philadelphia Nov^r 25th 1776.
Write in the midst of Company.

Sir.

We have continued in this Place untill this day in w^{ch} we shall set off for the Camp not being able to proceed before neither under the Letter nor Spirit of our Commission.

Our Convention had certainly two Capital objects in view that as the Congress had engaged the faith of the United States to furnish the Soldier with the Bounty of Lands, which they were to purchase, it followed by Implication that the United States had none belonging to them in common but must purchase of particular States who claimed a monopoly in them and of course might ruin those States who had none - Her view then was to have those Lands declared a common stock as being purchased (if ever purchased) by the joint Blood and Treasure of the Confederacy or find no Land to her Ruin -

The first Satisfaction she received on this Head was that she might enlist for three Years and give the 20 Doll^r Bounty, but must give the Soldiers the alternative to enlist during the War on the first Conditions - Opening two Rolls for the Purpose.

This not pleasing they Resolve again that the Commissioners may proceed to enlist for three years upon one Roll alone keeping it always in view that it was better to enlist during the War, if it did not retard the Service.

This Resolution keeping up the first Point of Contention the Lands and by Implication that the States had none still not answering expectation The Congress further resolved that any resolutions that had passed should neither operate to weaken or strengthen the Claim of the United States or any of them to any Back Land, by which this point that has given such uneasiness in our Province will be saved and be dispell hereafter in our future Confederacy.

The second point they had in view was the point of Taxation which they thought unequal being rated on slaves as well as Whites - This has been expressly named as the Mode as to 6 millions of Dollars - As to 14 more the same Declaration is made as in the article of lands that the proportion of sinking it shall be adjusted hereafter on each State and that nothing heretofore done shall strengthen or weaken such Inquiry or Question.

Our Province having in some measure obtained a Satisfaction on these two Heads, Nothing now remains but to consider whether the Convention having empowered us to proceed and enlist for and during the War on the 20 Doll^r we can so, on the Terms of three years and the same Bounty being for a life Term under this Point we are pretty generally agreed to depart from the Letter to preserve the Spirit -