

[The United States in Congress Assembled to the Legislatures of the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Rhode Island and Providence plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina & Georgia.]

December 17
Red Book
No. 9
Letter 106
[Signed,
"John
Hanson,
Presid^t, By
order of
Congress
Phila-
delphia "]

We are happy to observe that the present year hath been distinguished by the reduction of a powerful british Garrison in Virginia and that our Arms have also been prosperous in other Parts of the United States. But to infer that our inexorable foe is subdued beyond recovery may be attended with ruinous consequences. These events will yield but momentary advantages unless supported by vigorous measures in future.

From an assurance that Peace is best attained by preparations for War and that in the Cabinet of Negotiations those Arguments carry with them the greatest weight which are enforced not only with a retrospect of important Victories but by a well grounded prospect of future successes we have called upon you for Eight Millions of Dollars and for your respective deficiencies of the Military establishment.

Seven years have nearly passed since the Sword was first unsheathed. The sums expended in so long a Period, in a just and necessary War, must appear moderate, nor can this demand for pecuniary Aid be deemed exorbitant by those who compute the extent of Public exigencies and the proportion of the requisition to the abilities of the States.

Suppose not that funds exist for our relief beyond the limits of these States. As the Possession of the Citizen constitute our Natural resources and from a sense of their sufficiency the Standard of War was erected against Great Britain, so on them alone we now rely. But even if Loans were attainable their Amount would be nearly commensurate with our ability & inclination to repay and by nothing can both be more satisfactorily evidenced than by a generous exertion amidst the Languor of Public Credit.

Arguing from the former dilatoriness of supplies the enemy after having abandoned serious expectations of Conquest by Arms anticipate it in imagination from the dissolution of our Public Credit. They can not however deny the firmness of the basis on which it may be placed; when they survey the wide limits of this confederate Country, the fruitfulness of its soil & the industry of its People.

But the want of money is not the only source of our difficulties, nor do the Enemy gather Consolation from the State of our finances alone. We are distressed by the thinness of our Battalion, so vulnerable does the boldness of navigation render the very bosom of these States so dispersed in some facts is the population and so rapid an Enemy in transportation that they seize and exhaust large dis-