

Sir,

Circular

Office of Finance

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Philad^a. April 5th 1782

In a circular letter which I had the honor to address to your Excellency on the 9th day of last month, you were informed that the United States in Congress, had on the 20th & 27th of February passed Acts for settling and finally adjusting all the Public Accounts, and that those Acts would have been transmitted immediately, but that I was induced to wait the event of some additional propositions upon that Subject which were then before Congress —

As I now discover that those propositions meet with much greater delay, than at that time was expected; and as it is still uncertain when they may be decided upon, I think it improper to detain any longer the Acts that were passed, altho' several considerations induced a desire to have the

the whole System communicated to the several Assemblies at one and
the same time.

You will observe Sir that it is earnestly recommended
to the several Legislatures, duly to empower and authorize the
United States in Congress Assembled, to make a final settle-
ment of the proportions to be borne by each respective State
of the general Expenses of the war, from the Commencement
thereof until the 1st day of Jan^y 1782. An immediate com-
pliance with this recommendation is of infinite importance
to the Union as it is also to each of the States —

No determination of Quotas which Congress can
at this time possibly make, will create a difference for or
against any State, equal to the expense which will arise
either by disputing its Quota, or by delaying to have it fixed.
If Congress are now empowered they must be determined by
general principles, and if the decision is delayed ever so long
G. M. C.

General principles must at last be resorted to, and that after
large sums shall have been expended by each of the Governments,
in attempting to ascertain their respective Numbers of Inha:
bitants, Value of Property, quantity of Lands, Annual
Income &c. The returns ^{on} of these points severally, cannot be
made with certainty & exactitude as to the time past, and
therefore they will ^{only} afford more ample Field for disputation;
Disputes which if the cause be not removed by a compliance
with the present requisition, may probably deprive us of the
blessings of Peace, after the War with Great Britain shall cease.
I do ^{not} think it necessary to detail the reasons which induced
Congress to adopt this measure, but I cannot help observing
that it is to the want of decision on this point, that the
Languor & inaction of the several States is to be attributed.
That Fatal assertion, that each has done most, and which
each

each has made and repeated until it has gained but too much credit
would never have obtained a place in the Minds of men who
really love their Country and its cause. Had the Requisitions of
Congress been made Annually for Money, and the Quota's fixed
finally at the date of the demand, The Compliances of each
would in that case have determined their respective Merits
or Demerits. We should then have seen a Competition the
very reverse of that which has for some time past prevailed,
And it is not yet too late, let us settle the Accounts of
the past Expenditures, adjust the shares which each State
is to pay, but let the Settlement be final or we do
nothing. And if on the Requisition of men and money for this
and for future years, the Quota's be finally fixed, and the
Compliances be made publicly known, we shall banish
that distrust, which I am sorry to say, now exists between
the

the States, and in place thereof excite, the Noble Ardor which
Animated our Conduct in the Commencement of the Contest.
The Strife will then be which shall be foremost in contri-
buting their Share, to the support of that War, on the Success
of which depends at least, the Political existence of all.

A desire to Name Commissioners of approved
abilities and Character, has induced me to delay such
Nominations until I can obtain information, of suitable
Persons from each State.

I shall very soon proceed in this business in
such manner, as to me shall seem most likely to obtain, honest,
impartial, and equitable, Settlements of the Public Accounts.

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedient

and
most Humble Servant

His Excellency

The Governor of

New Hampshire

W. S. Mowbray.

[Faint, illegible handwriting throughout the page]