

Bennington November 8th 1782 No 16 76

Dear Sir

This Instant I am informed by Letter from the Honorable Simon, Throott, that Mr Willard's Action for a public Debt, of £100. went against me at the inferior Court in Hampshire - that Execution was out returnable by the 1st of January, & Cause a Writ of fieri facias would then issue against him as my Bail, unless I appeared to satisfy the Execution.

Terrible of the Inability of the Public to make immediate Payment of their Debts, and in full Confidence that proper Provision would be made for the Purpose as soon as the exigencies of the States would admit, - I have hitherto sustained every Injury without Complaint. But that I should sustain greater Injuries without any Redress, in Consequence of a faithful Discharge of my Duty in the Department under your Direction, is as cruel as it is unjust.

In the present Case I have the wretched Alternative
either

either of satisfying the Debt (and of Course all the public Creditors of the Department within my Limits) or in being committed to Goal as a common Debtor: The former is not in my Power or Inclination to do.

As for the small Estate I possess, it has already been attached to secure the Payment of a public Debt, and would have suffered, had not the Legislature of this State in demerits my Interest for a certain Period from answering those Contracts; and notwithstanding that Period has elapsed, the Courts of Justice in this Quarter have, as yet, continued the Suits brought against me by Public Creditors. But will their Lenity (though a Proof of their public Virtue) in this Particular be a Benefit to me?— Will not my constant Attendance upon Courts, in this State and that of Hampshire, for the continuance of Suits for public Debts, create an Expence that will prove my Ruin in the End? Besides, while the most distant Idea remains that my Interest must answer those Contracts, and that all Debts of the Kind are to be discharged in this Way,— what Encouragement have I and Others in a similar Situation, either for a public or a private Station in Life?

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I lament the necessity of applying to you on this occasion,
but to whom must I go for Redress?— By the System of the
Department, from you I receive my Orders and Money, and to you
am I accountable for its Expenditure.— Have I not justly accounted
for all the Monies I have received?— Have I not claimed a Balance
due to public Creditors, and lodged their Names, as such, with you?
Is not the whole of my Wages, from June 1778, until September 1780,
yet due? Did I not, pursuant to your repeated Orders, and the
extreme Want of the Army upon the Frontiers, supply them with
Provision when public Money and Credit failed?— I presume you
will allow my Assertions to be true; if so, must I be oppressed
for a faithful Discharge of my Duty? Surely it cannot be the
Intention of Congress, that public Officers, in this Situation, be
ruined for the Execution of their Orders. What their Intention
may be respecting public Debts and Manner in which they are
to be discharged, is a Matter of immediate Concern to me. I ear-
nestly

earnestly request you to take Measures that will be effectual
for my Recovery. I shall send to Willard, and prevail upon him,
if possible, to stay the Execution until I can pursue the Mode
you may point out for my Relief.

I am

Sir.

Your obedient Servant
Isaac Tichenor.

Isaac Tychler Esquire
(Copy.)