

if a man can once believe, he may justly, by human authority, transgress those laws, he loses much of the due and necessary respect that ought to be paid them, and shall afterwards be able to resist their checks and admonitions with greater ease and facility : and he that owes to 20 people, and pays them with five sixths of their due, and sees his neighbour do the like, under colour of law to-day, will, I am afraid, with less regret and compunction, defraud his creditors without a law to-morrow.

But now, granting that intire recompence ought to be made, it may be asked how the quantum of paper to be paid, for antecedent silver debts, shall be ascertained.

The legislature cannot settle it with exact justice, because no skill can discover what the future current value shall be; and if the people are left to do it themselves, it will introduce many law-suits and oppressions, and still they may be as far from right as if the legislature had done it. The greater inconveniences in the latter, rationally determine the power to the former. When they come to exercise it, if it is the first experiment of the kind, I imagine they can do little more than guess at the value. But as it is within demonstration, that the paper cannot be equal