

All that I propose is, to evince that a State so pressed with necessities as ours is, only vainly boasts of a Constitution she does not, cannot enjoy : from which it follows of necessary consequence, that it is the duty of all Parties to join, to give or to restore to us our Constitution. Before this is done, it is surely a folly the most preposterous to fall a-wrangling about the proper exercise and administration of it. The Constitution, like all the rest we possess, like every other part of our effects, falls under, and is annihilated by, the statute of our Public Bankruptcy ; for Bankrupts we certainly are, to every intent, purpose, and meaning of the word, if, in the second year of a Peace, good and sufficient Resources are not found to make our Incomes equal at least to our Expenditure : They ought, indeed, so far to exceed it as to leave a reasonable surplus for present or future emergencies.

I cannot