

an action for debt, though they had pronounced, with the same breath, *that the laws of England had been studded into the Georgian system.* The South Carolina Assembly with a bolder spirit passed an act, on the 16th of March 1784; for preventing the commencement of suits for debts contracted by any citizen previous to February 1782; and for postponing ultimate payment by several liquidations till January 1789. Urged perhaps by the same necessities the North Carolina Assembly passed an act, in May 1783, to prevent the recovery of debts theretofore contracted; till after the expiration of a year. Equally necessitous, but perhaps more confident, the Virginian Assembly passed an act, even after they had received the Definitive Treaty, “ to suspend the issuing of executions for four months from December 1783, and to the end of the subsequent Assembly. The American Legislatures, who may have concurred with those States, in similar measures, may equally plead, *that the necessity which drives, defends.* Whether Grotius or Puffendorf, Burlamaqui or Vattel, would have admitted this justification, for an evident infraction of a positive treaty is a question, which it is not at present worth while to ask. Their own Phocion has told the American citizens, with a loud voice, on the authority of some of those jurists: “ That the wilful breach of a single article annuls the whole, since every clause must stand, or fall together. If Britain should regard the treaty as broken,—can we renew the war? We know; and
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