

French fleet and army came to our relief—we were enabled to make loans in Europe, and in March, 1780, when the army was re-organized, it felt secure of pay, clothing and necessaries, and entitled to the rights of war. The army formed at that period was as much a mercenary army as that of any kingdom in Europe. They had made terms with their employers to their satisfaction; these terms ought to be strictly fulfilled. But the heat and burthen of the day was past, the revolution was accomplished, patriotism was no longer invoked to fill our ranks.

Certain engagements were also made by Congress, to the officers and soldiers who served before 1780—they were offered *pay* and *rations*. Let these deficiencies be made up, and if a debt of gratitude be due to any description of the officers of the revolutionary army, it is eminently due to that portion of which your memorialists make a part.

We have chosen a time when the overflowing treasury of the United States has become an object of solicitude and alarm, lest this superabundance of national wealth might tend to corrupt the morals of our rulers, and endanger the peace of the country and the permanency of the Union, in the struggle for distribution.

A very small pittance of this surplus would enable us to terminate the short residue of our existence in comfort and repose.

The Congress under the old confederation, thought it an act of common justice, to settle and discharge the debts due from the United States to individuals for supplies and for services, other than military, not by the nominal amount in their paper currency, but by a scale of depreciation in which it was professed to charge payments thus made according to the actual specie value of the paper at the time of payment—this had a semblance of justice; but, in point of fact, the paper currency was in that scale rated at something more than its actual value, yet even this meagre justice was not granted the officers and soldiers of the army, although it must be allowed that they were creditors of the highest grades.

We therefore respectfully ask that a fair estimate may be made of the sums due to us for pay and rations, crediting to the United States the sums paid in paper currency at the actual specie value at the time of payment, and that the balance thus found due, may be paid to us, with interest, or that compensation may be made to us for that balance in such