

the *national authority*.—*Projects of usurpation* cannot be *masked under pretences* so likely to escape the penetration of *select bodies* of men, as of the people at large.—The LEGISLATURES will have better means of information.—They can discover the danger at a distance; and, *possessing all the organs of CIVIL POWER*, and the confidence of the people, they can at once adopt a REGULAR PLAN OF OPPOSITION, in which they can *combine all the resources of the community.*”

That measure cannot be revolutionary, which is adopted, nor with a view to resort to force, but by some decisive measures, to call the attention of the co-states to a disputed question in such a form, or to compel them to decide what are or are not the rights of the states, in a case of a palpable and dangerous infractions of those fundamental principles of liberty in which they all have an interest.

In the exercise of the right of nullification, we are not unmindful of the many objections which have been urged against it. That it may embarrass the present majority in Congress, who are fatally bent upon building up the sectional interests of their constituents, upon the ruin of our commerce, we can readily imagine: but these embarrassments, on examination, will be found to proceed rather from an unwillingness on their part to adjust the controversy on principles of reason and justice, than from any real difficulty existing in the Constitution: The provisions of the Constitution are ample for taking the sense of the States on a question, more important than any which has occurred since the formation of the Government. But if the spirit of justice departs from the councils, to which we have a right to look up as the guardians of the public liberty and the public peace, no provisions of human wisdom can avail. We have heard much of the danger of suffering one State to impede the operations of twenty-three States: but it must be obvious to every considerate man, that the danger can only exist where a State is wrong. If the people of any one State are *right* in the principles for which they contend, it is desirable that they should impede the operations of Congress, until the sentiments of its co-states shall be had. A higher eulogy could not be bestowed upon our system, than the power of resorting to some conservative principle, that shall stay a disruption of the league. It is no argument to say that a State may have no grounds on which to place herself upon her sovereign rights. This is a possible, but by no means a probable