

divine, have the manufacturing states—for we regard the Federal Government, as a mere instrument in their hands—to prohibit South Carolina, directly, or indirectly, from going to her natural markets; and exchanging the rich productions of her soil, without restriction or incumbrance, for such foreign articles as will most conduce to the wealth and prosperity of her citizens? It will not surely be pretended—for truth and decency equally forbid the allegation—that in exchanging our productions for the cheaper manufactures of Europe, we violate any right of the domestic manufactures, however gratifying it might be to them, if we would purchase their inferior productions at higher prices.

Upon what principle, then, can the State of South Carolina be called upon to submit to a system, which excludes her from her natural markets and the manifold benefits of that enriching commerce which a kind and beneficent Providence has provided to connect her with the family of nations, by the bonds of mutual interest? But one answer can be given to this question. It is in vain that we attempt to disguise the fact, mortifying as it must be, that the principle by which South Carolina is thus excluded, is in strict propriety of language, and to all rational intents and purposes, a principle of colonial dependence and vassalage, in all respects, identical with that which restrained our forefathers from trading with any manufacturing nation of Europe, other than Great Britain. South Carolina now bears the same relation to the manufacturing states of this confederacy, that the Anglo American colonies bore to the mother country, with the single exception that our burthens are incomparably more oppressive than those of our ancestors. Our time, our pride, and the occasion, equally forbid us to trace out the degrading analogy. We leave that to the historian who shall record the judgment which an impartial posterity will pronounce upon the eventful transactions of this day.

It is in vain that we attempt to console ourselves by the empty and unreal mockery of our representation in Congress. As to all those great and vital interests of the state, which are affected by the protecting system, it would be better that she had no representation in that body. It serves no other purpose but to conceal the chains which fetter our liberties under the vain and empty forms of a representative Government. In the enactment of the protecting system, the majority of Congress, is in strict propriety of speech, an irresponsible despotism. A very brief