

So much has been said and written on the subject submitted to them, that they may be said to be exhausted, and they will therefore submit a few remarks prefatory to the resolutions, which they recommend to the adoption of the house.

In a country of such vast extent as the United States, embracing such a variety of soil, climate and products, and inhabited by a people, whose pursuits are as various as the climate under which they live; any attempt on the part of the government to force manufactures into existence, by governmental bounties, must of necessity operate unequally, and therefore be unjust.

If it be a truth, not now to be questioned, that no government can justly take from one portion of its citizens a part of their property, to benefit another, it is more especially unjust in a country like ours, composed of different states, who are united in one common bond, only for the purpose of providing for the common defence, of promoting the general welfare, and securing the blessings of liberty to themselves and posterity. For these purposes, this Union was formed, and it cannot be supposed, that those who consented to it, intended by implication and construction to confer on the general government powers destructive of their happiness and best interest. Laws having their operation, and professing to derive their authority from the constitution under which we live, being opposed to the true interests of every section of the republic, and unjust in their operation on the Southern States, even if sustained by the letter of the constitution, are contrary to its spirit, and at war with the general scope and tenor of that instrument.

It cannot be believed, that if the framers of the constitution had assigned the exercise of such a power, as the right to create and protect domestic manufactures by a system of high duties, that it would have been left to inference or implication, its framers, therefore, could not have intended that such a power should be exercised. This reasoning is founded on, and these results drawn from the instrument itself; but in addition thereto, contemporaneous history informs us, that in the convention which framed the constitution, it was proposed in various modes to give that power to congress, and refused.

It is the exercise of this power, which a large majority of the South believe to be against the spirit of the constitution, and no inconsiderable number, contrary to its express letter, which has driven them to consider their go-