

ishments, and to carry desolation through the whole manufacturing interests of the country.

Such is the character of the bill, considered merely as a change in the economical policy of the Government. The objections to it, which your committee have stated in the most concise form, but which are too familiar to the public mind, not to occur at once with all the necessary development to every one, are plain, obvious, palpable. They cannot, it would seem, be overlooked or disregarded by any sincere and enlightened friend of the country. Strong as they are, they are, however, if possible, inferior in importance to those which are suggested by a view of the circumstances under which the bill is proposed.

2. Considering the circumstances under which it is offered, the bill amounts to a proposal to surrender the rights and interests of the whole people, to the menaces of a single State, and the passage of it into a law would seriously compromise the honor and dignity of the Government.

A few months only have elapsed, since the present Congress, with great consideration, and after many months of long and anxious debate, passed an impost law, which was to take effect from and after the first day of next March, and which has of course not yet gone into operation. No law has ever been passed in this country, upon which the people at large or their Representatives in Congress have bestowed more time, labor and attention, than upon this.—Two great Conventions were successively held, masses of materials in the form of reports and statistical documents were collected, and months of debate were employed in bringing it to perfection. It was a law of reduction—constructed on the professed principle of compromise, with a view of satisfying, by every reasonable concession, the discontents of the South. It was adopted by an unusually large and gratifying majority, composed of moderate men of all parties. The repeal of a law made with so much labor and caution, before it has even gone into operation, is a measure, which could obviously be justified only by some very important political event occurring in the interval. It is a measure which in the nature of things would never be proposed, excepting as a consequence of some such change. What event then, has occurred, since the adoption of the impost law of the last session of Congress, of a nature to lead to such a proposal?

The only event which has taken place since the last ses-