

paralyze our commerce and fisheries, and condemn to bankruptcy and ruin, thousands of our most industrious and enterprising citizens, and materially affect, in the most injurious manner, the prosperity of the whole country.

2. *Resolved*, That it is the usage and the duty of enlightened and prudent Governments, to proceed with great deliberation in their legislation on all important subjects, and that no greater political evil can well be imagined, than frequent and rapid changes of the laws, especially such as affect the property and industry of the citizens:— that for Congress, after having recently revised the Revenue laws with great consideration, and made a new arrangement of them by an unexpectedly large and satisfactory majority, to take up the subject again before the new law has even gone into operation, and at a short session when the little time at their disposal is plainly insufficient for a careful examination of it, would be a proceeding manifestly at variance with the plainest rules of discretion, and only to be justified by the intervention of some very great change in the political situation of the country.

3. *Resolved*, That since the passage of the law of the last session of Congress, which has not yet gone into operation, no change has occurred in the political situation of the country of a nature to affect the action of the Government upon the subject, except the assembling, and acts of the South Carolina Convention, by which that State threatens to secede from the Union, unless the protecting policy be immediately abandoned; and that these proceedings, far from affording a sufficient motive for new legislation on the subject at the present moment, would form of themselves a strong objection to it; that no moment could well be imagined less favorable for a cool and dispassionate examination of any general subject, than one in which it should be accidentally embarrassed by a particular incident of a novel, dangerous, and irritating character, and that a prudent, firm, and patriotic Government would on no account expose the great interests of the people to the risk which they would run, by being debated and decided upon in the midst of civil commotions.

4. *Resolved*, That the bill now reported by the committee of Ways and Means, is not merely an injudicious and impolitic attempt to legislate, under circumstances unfavorable to a calm and cool consideration of the subject, but wears upon the face of it, the aspect of submission, and that it grants substantially what South Carolina demands;