

to the people of the United States and of South Carolina.— These documents undertake to justify the proceedings of the Convention, on the ground that the duties on the importation of foreign goods were laid, in part at least, for the purpose of protecting domestic industry: that the General Government is not invested by the Constitution with the power of laying duties for this purpose, and that, whenever the General Government assumes powers which, in the opinion of any one of the States, are not given to it by the Constitution, the State which entertains this opinion may, without violating the Constitution, declare the act by which the power so assumed has been exercised, null and void, and prevent the execution of it within its limits. It also appears to have been supposed by the Convention, that, on the adoption of such measures by any one State, it would become the duty of the General Government to suspend the execution of the law complained of at least within the limits of the complaining State, and to apply to the people in the form prescribed for amending the Constitution, for a grant of the power supposed to have been unconstitutionally assumed:—that, if the power should on this application be refused by the people, it would be the duty of the General Government definitively to repeal the law by which it had been exercised, and that if, on the contrary, it should be granted, it would then become the duty of the complaining State to acquiesce. There seems, however, to be some uncertainty in the views of this part of the subject entertained by that portion of the citizens of South Carolina upon whom the responsibility for these measures rest; as the Legislature of the State, instead of leaving it to the General Government to propose to the people in the form prescribed for amending the Constitution a grant of the power of laying duties upon the importation of foreign goods, have themselves, at their late session, passed resolutions, proposing to the other States to hold a Convention for the purpose of settling this and other questions which they consider as doubtful.

It is affirmed, in these addresses and reports, that the laws of the United States, imposing duties upon the importation of foreign goods, thus declared to be null and void, are exceedingly burdensome and oppressive to the people of South Carolina. This proposition is not made out by the statement of any facts which tend to prove the existence of actual distress; and it is remarkable that the Governor of South Carolina, in his address to the Legislature, at the opening of their late session, congratulates them upon the extraordinary prosperity of the State. The Convention at-