

that any such obstruction should have been thrown in the way of a regular expression of the public will: They would never advise any legislation by congress under the pretence of any power; and they have very little fear that any such will be desired by the executive, or sanctioned by that body. It must, however, be borne in mind, that South Carolina is not the only state which considers herself seriously affected by the existing law, and seeks relief from its operation; that there are many other states who, in this respect, similarly circumstanced, whose alienation from the Union would be the greatest calamity that could befall us, but who have shown as much devotion to the Union, and have manifested as much repugnance to the measures of South Carolina as any. It is then for the just and sound discretion of congress to decide, whether, whilst all proper measures are adopted to maintain the laws of the United States in the state of South Carolina, in the same manner as if no such ordinance had been passed, they may not without detriment to the honor and dignity of the Government, now act upon a matter which has been so specially and urgently submitted to them by the Executive. It may be assured that there is sufficient intelligence and confidence in the people to judge those greatly deprecated measures by themselves, uninfluenced by prejudices of any kind on the one hand, or by the cotemporaneous measures of the Government on the other. Nor is it a matter of great importance to the people of this state to consider whether the acts of South Carolina ought to occasion a deduction from them of about one million of dollars annually, a sum three times as large as is required for the expenses of our state government, when the president informs us that it is not needed for the public service. The duty of deciding upon these grave matters rests, it has been justly observed by the governor, so far as this state has a voice in the discussion, with those who represent the Congress of the United States. There, the committee think, with a general expression of the Legislature, the right and may with safety be left. It would, doubtless, be incompetent for the Legislature to give explicit advice or instruction to their representatives upon the subject, from the obvious superiority, in position, of our representatives in congress, to take a better view of the whole and then that which is possessed by us, and from the extent to which the question as to the most proper course for action, as well as the particular provisions which are to be made, are dependant on facts and details, of