

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Joint Committee on the State of the Republic, to whom was referred the Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, on the subject of the power which has been assumed and exercised by the General Government, of appropriating money out of the Treasury of the United States, to be expended upon objects of Internal Improvement, submit the following

REPORT:

The subject referred to your Committee, is one upon which the Legislature has heretofore been called on for the expression of an opinion, and one upon which the public mind has been much excited, and is well informed: a reiteration of facts and arguments is, therefore, not deemed necessary. They will remark, however, that it has lost none of its importance; and although the growing discontent throughout the Southern States, and the firmness of President of Jackson, have given a check to the designs of the friends of the American system, and for the present closed the doors of the Treasury to their extravagant plans for squandering the public revenue, it must not be forgotten by the supporters of State rights that the principle has not yet been abandoned, and awaits only favorable opportunity to be again called into action by its advocates, in aid of their plans of usurpation and consolidation.

It was early discovered by the friends of the protective system, and we might add of usurpation, that some plan must be adopted to dispose of the exorbitant tax which they designed to lay upon the commerce of the country; and perhaps the ingenuity of man could not have devised one better suited to the views of the enemies of State rights, and the friends of manufacturing monopolists, or more dangerous to the reserved rights of the States, the safety of our political institutions, and the liberties of the people. The plan of constructing extensive works of Internal Improvement by the General Government, promised to answer all their ends. By this means, the Treasury was to be emptied, the commerce of the country taxed without limit, the territory and jurisdiction of the States invaded and proscribed. The continued exercise of this power would have accomplished all their wishes: while it afforded a pretext