

tain and defend them. When to all these glorious results it is added that the paternal voice of Him who was first in war, first in peace, and still is first in the hearts of his countrymen, employed its latest accents in inculcating a deep and solemn veneration for this Constitution and the Union

Your committee would do injustice to their feelings were they to suppress the avowal that they seem themselves to be treading upon holy ground, and that nothing short of the most palpable necessity could induce them to recommend the adoption of any measures which, however well designed, might ultimately endanger the existence or mar the symmetry and beauty of this most perfect monument of uninspired wisdom.

Your committee, however, cannot refrain from expressing that they believe that a wild and latitudinarian construction has been placed upon the Constitution of the United States by many in our government, and which they believe to be well calculated, by the exercise of such unlimited construction, to be productive of discontent, sectional injustice, and even oppression itself. Your committee believe that the Congress of the United States have no right to exercise any powers other than those which are expressly delegated, and those incidental powers which arise under that express grant; and would gladly see those ambiguities which are contained in that instrument, which has been justly styled the "charter of the liberties of the American people," at the proper time so amended as to set at rest those disputed powers which have agitated our happy government for a series of years; but the turbulent spirit of the times, and the numberless sectional influences, which, under almost every variety of form and shape and intensity, pervade and agitate the divisions of our country, would, in the opinion of your committee, render it imprudent to concur in the application contained in the resolution of the State of Georgia at the present critical period of our national affairs; while the citizens of the Union are subjected to those adverse influences, it would seem more than madness to expect that calm deliberation—that mutual spirit of concession and conciliation; that broad patriotism in which it alone originated, and which should inform, direct and animate the proceedings of any body of men who may be called together to alter or amend it. Under the Constitution as it exists, we enjoy a freedom of laws, of order, of security and peace, and we enjoy it to an