

extent hitherto unexampled in the records of the world. *Freedom*, Americans always will possess. Her image is stamped so deeply upon our hearts, that like the form of Phidias on the shield of his Minerva, it can be obliterated by the annihilation alone of the substance on which it is impressed. But an unsuccessful attempt to render the constitution more congenial to the wishes of those states which are most anxious for its amendment—the angry warmth and excitement which would attend the struggle, and the malignant passions it would engender, might change this peaceful freedom, (which is our pride and boast,) into a freedom of fraternal wars, of bloodshed and desolation.

If a convention were called for the purpose of defining with more precision those parts of the constitution which are considered indefinite, and prohibiting the exercise of those powers, which being considered doubtful, have constituted the ground work of those violent party divisions which distract our country, your committee believe that it would be productive of results wholly foreign to the wishes of those who are most anxious for the call. A convention assembled at this time, they have every reason to believe would affirm these very powers which are so obnoxious to a majority of the citizens of the southern sections of the Union. The constitutionality of a tariff of protection has been affirmed by eighteen of the twenty-four states; the larger states all being in favor of the affirmation. Now it should be recollected that the power of the smaller states is greater in Congress than it would be in a convention of the states, called upon any plan of representation which we could reasonably expect would be adopted; under the most favorable circumstances the co-ordinate power held by us in the Senate would be merged in the mass of the popular representation of the larger states. For a redress of the grievances, therefore, which are assigned as the causes for the call, prudence would seem to dictate a reliance on the equity and patriotism of the national legislature, and more especially a reliance on the progressive influence, the intelligence and virtue of the people of the Union.

In accordance with these suggestion, your committee would recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, That this State does not conceive it expedient to*