

IN SENATE,
May 18, 1836. }

Mr. Mack, from the joint committee of the Senate and Assembly, to whom were referred so much of the Governor's message as relates to the constitutional rights and the safety of the States in respect to domestic slavery, and sundry communications from the States of Virginia, Ohio, Maine, &c. upon the same subject, reported as follows, to wit:

Concurring in the views and sentiments which were so fully and ably expressed upon this subject in the message of his excellency the Governor, and witnessing the salutary influence which the patriotic stand thus taken by our Chief Magistrate, and other causes, were exerting upon the public mind to arrest the progress of abolition doctrines and efforts, the committee have not deemed it incumbent upon them to report at an earlier period of the session: Nor do they now consider it their duty to occupy ground which may revive unpleasant and unprofitable controversy, and disturb that healthful state of public sentiment, upon a hitherto exciting topic, which seems so happily to exist.

The committee may repeat, as peculiarly applicable at the present time, the declarations of his excellency the Governor, that "our constituents have expressed their enlightened and deliberate judgment upon the subject under consideration;" that, "with an earnestness and unanimity never before witnessed among us, they have, without distinction of sect or party, in their primary assemblies, and in various other ways, expressed their attachment to the constitution of the federal government; their determination to maintain its guarantees; their disapprobation of the whole system of operations set on foot by the abolitionists; their affection for their brethren of the south; and their fixed purpose to do all that in them lies, consistently with law and justice, to render these sentiments effectual;" and that "it is not to be believed, that these manifestations of public sentiment have been or will be disregarded by those who have been engaged in, or given countenance to, the abolition proceedings."

"I am fully persuaded (observes his excellency,) that

~~the general feeling of public opinion, as it has been~~