

“vention of electors, reserving to the States, respectively, their due weight in relation to the said election, as is guaranteed to them by the Constitution of the United States.— And that the election of President and Vice President should, in no case whatever, be submitted to the decision of the House of Representatives of the United States.”

Your Committee have also had before them a Resolution of the Legislature of Georgia, expressing their concurrence on this subject, with the Legislature of Missouri; and a Resolution of the Legislature of Vermont, expressing their opinion, that it is expedient to alter the Constitution of the United States in the manner proposed by the State of Missouri.

Believing that the Constitution should not be altered for light and transient causes, your Committee have carefully sought for the evidence of existing evils, which require the proposed alterations; they have, however, not been able to find it. The Presidential election is full of interest to the people of the United States. Party strife and unhallowed ambition, with their necessary consequences, the prostitution of public patronage, and the corruption of private integrity, have occasioned some anxiety for the permanency of our political institutions. For the restraint and correction of such evils, incident, as they are, to our free government, the patriot looks not to a change of Constitution, but to a sound, enlightened public opinion—a power which no purposes of selfish ambition, no claims of party, no unhallowed combinations can resist. But it is said, that the provisions of the Constitution, as they now exist, may, and frequently do, prevent a fair expression of the will of a majority of the people, in the election, and are thus at variance with the fundamental principles of the Constitution. If the Committee had been furnished with the details of the proposed alterations, they could speak with more confidence of their probable operation. It is believed, however, that enough is disclosed to justify the opinion, that the principle assumed is not in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution. The framers of that instrument were men of the utmost purity, talents and patriotism; their wisdom approached inspiration; and every year of our political existence has increased the inestimable value of their great work. Their object was not the formation of a consolidated empire, but a combination of the energies of the distinct State sovereignties, for certain specified national purposes. The strictly popular representative prin-