

the neighbouring corporations, under the influence of particular, or private interests, and controled by a spirit of grasping avarice, or inordinate speculation, have spread around them a wide expanse of privileged domination, and pecuniary restriction, which, in their deleterious and withering consequences, have resulted in the general embarrassment, and irremediable ruin, of a large proportion of their population, the developments of this evidence of the wisdom of South Carolina, have induced reform in several of the states adjacent, and it may, with confidence, be believed, that this improvement will speedily pervade the whole of that division of the Union.

The committee might refer, more especially, to the disclosures which have recently appeared in the legislative proceedings of North-Carolina, and present the features of that exhibition as equally applicable to every similar incorporation; and aware, as they are, of a prevailing distrust, and the strong suspicions, which exist in reference to institutions nearer home, they are induced to anticipate that the fiscal amendments of the south, in this essential branch of the public right, will be embraced in our own state.

With respect to the existing organization of the treasury department, there appears to be a total absence of that controlling power and necessary supervision, which the public interest very obviously demands. The entire management of the public money is now committed to a single individual, without control or sufficient check; and admitting the integrity of that individual to be above reproach, which the committee are ready to admit, and that his intelligence is of the first order, they cannot consent, at the same time, that it consists with a due regard to the financial relations of the state, to permit the continuance of a system so very imperfect and defective. In the view of this committee the proper duties of a treasurer are to receive, disburse, and account for, the revenues; and a faithful discharge of those duties is sufficient to employ the diligent attention of an able officer, from day to day, throughout the year. But for the beneficial administration of the treasury department, the public welfare demands more than a faithful discharge of these duties. It demands, in fact, the constant vigilance of a competent statesman to superintend the collection, to avoid evasions, and to secure a similarity of construction, and unity of action, in every fiscal regulation.

The committee have reason to believe, that many of the revenue laws are either dormant and inoperative, or that they are very partially, and consequently very unjustly executed; and they have understood that immense losses have accrued from numerous delinquents escaping through the inadequacy of the laws, or through indiscreet indulgencies, and the insufficiency, in point of form, of official bonds; and that the inequality of contributions, and the great injustice which arise from these defects, might be avoided by a modification which would not only provide the necessary checks, and salutary control, in the