

We have to confess that we are unable to discover any possible tendency in the proposed amendment to promote any of these indispensable requisites of good Government.

Report of the  
Committee.

The distribution of powers between the Federal and State Governments, when acting in harmonious co-operation, having proved adequate to every emergency, in peace and in war, during the entire existence of the Constitution down to our late unhappy troubles, and having elevated our country to the highest point of national prosperity and greatness, the wisdom, patriotism and sagacity of the framers of the Constitution were exhibited by the result of their labors.

In the proposition now under consideration the people of the several States, acting through their several Legislatures, are called upon to strip themselves and their State Governments of powers most vital to their safety and freedom, yea even to their continued existence in any useful or practical operation, and to bestow those powers upon the Federal Government. Before yielding to such a demand the proposition ought to receive the most careful consideration in all its aspects and consequences.

To understand the nature and object of the proposed amendment, it is necessary to know its history, and the grounds upon which its ratification is urged.

The people of the eleven Southern States who attempted to secede from the jurisdiction of the Constitution and laws of the United States, and to establish a separate Confederacy, having utterly failed in their attempt, after four years of civil war, were compelled to lay down their arms and return to their obedience to the Constitution and the laws of the United States.

The obligation of the Federal Government to restore fugitive slaves, had in the progress of political and fanatical stite, become one of exceedingly difficult fulfillment, State legislation had virtually nullified the fugitive slave law in a majority of the free States, and the state of popular feeling against it in the others, rendered it next to impossible to execute it. In the progress of the civil war, in