

Kentucky asserted, in legislative resolves, their doctrine of State sovereignty, which was affirmed again in 1799. In 1800, the Republican party of that day came into power by a large majority on that issue, with Jefferson as President.

Report of the  
Committee.

In the year 1814, during the war with Great Britain, the doctrine of State Sovereignty was emphatically asserted by the New England States. The Legislature of Massachusetts appointed twelve delegates from that State to meet and confer with delegates from the other New England States, or any other, upon the subject of their public grievances and concerns, &c., Connecticut appointed seven delegates and Rhode Island four, by their respective Legislatures, who met with the Massachusetts delegates at Hartford, Connecticut, in December, 1814. Three persons from New Hampshire and one from Vermont appeared as delegates chosen by local Conventions in those States, and were admitted as members. After a secret session of three weeks they published a report, from which the following extracts are taken :

History of the Hartford Convention, by the Secretary, 355.

Whenever it shall appear that these causes are radical and permanent, a separation, by equitable arrangement will be preferable to an alliance by constraint among nominal friends but real enemies, inflamed by mutual hatred and jealousy, and inviting, by intestine divisions, contempt and aggression from abroad. But a severance of the Union by one or more States against the will of the rest, and especially in a time of war, can be justified only by absolute necessity, 359. The power of compelling the militia and other citizens of the United States, by a forcible draft or conscription, to serve in the regular armies, as proposed in a late official letter of the Secretary of War, is not delegated to Congress by the Constitution, and the exercise of it would be not less dangerous to their liberties than hostile to the sovereignty of the States.

In this whole series of devices and measures for raising men, this Convention discern a total disregard of the Constitution and a disposition to vi-