

## CHAPTER V.

### FEDERATE RELATIONS.

It was shown in the preceding chapter that, according to the spirit of our political institutions, the actual sovereignty resided with the people. They make and model the constitution and form of their governments, and regulate the authority of its officers, at pleasure. It was also asserted that the state government instead of being subordinate to the general government, was essentially sovereign and independent. But the state is also a member of a confederation of states. It remains to consider her as such.

When the confederation was first formed, it consisted of thirteen states—others have been gradually added to the number. At present there are twenty-four, and it is probable that number will soon be increased.

As a member of the confederation, Maryland enjoys a singular position in several respects.

As a central state, neither properly belonging to the northern nor to the southern division of the Union. We find all writers class the western states as North or South, by the discriminating line of the Ohio river. But the Atlantic states are oftner designated Northern and Southern