

officers, elected from or voted for within each State, and transfer that power to Congress, by inserting other words, authorizing them (Congress) to pass laws making the qualification of all voters for federal officers *uniform* throughout the United States. Such an amendment of the constitution would place it completely in the power of Congress to apply a perfect remedy. They could then prohibit non-naturalized foreigners every where from voting, and repeal or annul all State laws allowing that privilege.

But once possessed of this power, what other and further use might Congress not make of it? Armed with the right and power to fix the qualification of all voters for Members of Congress, and other Federal officers, and make these qualifications uniform, what security would be left to the South, the weaker portion of the Confederacy, against the abuse of that power by large and excited majorities in Congress from those portions of the country, where views prevail on a *deeply interesting question*, which would be fatal to the South if carried out? Indeed, supposing this power to be placed in the hands of Congress, and they set about the work of giving *uniformity* to the qualifications of voters throughout the country; how could such a law be framed and passed by them, which would not give a fatal stab to Southern institutions? for even suppose the members of that body to be always perfectly just in their purposes, still each one would be bound to vote for such an extension of this right of voting, as his sense of justice and right required. Already, we know that many of the Northern States have extended this privilege to the negroes amongst them! They deem it proper there that this description of persons should vote as well as others; the members of Congress must be presumed to reflect the sentiments and opinions of their constituents—they would be bound, therefore, in making an *uniform* law on that subject, to do that which they think wrong and unjust, by withdrawing this high privilege from a portion of their own constituents, who now have and enjoy it, or they must extend it equally to the negroes every where! What, under such circumstances, would become of the South? Such an amendment might suit abolitionists, and consolidationists—it would jump with their principles and purposes; but there are those it would not suit so well.

It may be this new-born zeal—this vast and vehement clamor recently raised, to put down and proscribe foreigners, and prohibit their voting at elections, is intended to throw the public mind into such a frenzied state of excitement as to induce such an amendment of the constitution, since it has been seen to be the only effectual remedy for this pretended *great* and *crying* evil. Neither is it impossible, nay, it has now become probable, that hidden beneath, and advancing under cover of this pretext, and urging it on, lies deeply concealed the fell spirit of abolitionism itself, brooding over hopes of success, and watching for the propitious moment