

well in Congress as in, if not by several State legislatures, which look to the adoption of some measure, *by the General Government*, upon this subject, which cannot be effected but in violation of the rights and privileges of both: for it is a matter with which that Government has nothing to do, and with which it can, *in no manner*, interfere, without overstepping the bounds of authority and trespassing upon rights, and assuming powers never conceded to it.

We have deemed it our duty, at this time, to invite your particular attention to this exciting subject, and to express frankly our views of its most vital importance; and earnestly recommed that it be distinctly made known, that we cannot recognize in any of our sister States or their citizens any right to interfere with our slaves; and that we unequivocally deny any authority in the General Government to legislate upon the subject of their emancipation, or to disturb our rights of property in them in any manner whatsoever.

It is confidently hoped and believed, that a temperate, yet firm and determined expression of the unanimous resolution of the slaveholding States to adhere to and vindicate their rights on this subject, against all extraneous interference would have a salutary effect in awakening all calm thinking and well intended abolitionists (and without their countenance and aid, the evil-intentioned would be impotent, and soon cease their efforts) to such a deliberate reconsideration and thorough examination of the whole subject in all its aspects and tendencies, as would induce them to cease their labors—fruitless of any good, but tending to much mischief, and to produce restlessness, dissatisfaction, inquietude, and consequent insubordination of slaves, and vexation, alarm, and increased rigor on the part of masters.

We are encouraged to entertain this hope with much confidence by the fact, which we have understood and believe to be true, that almost every intelligent gentleman from any of the non-slaveholding States, has left home friendly to the abolition cause, and travelled extensively in the South, has had his mind changed, and withdrawn his countenance and support from that cause. Such has been nearly the uniform result of becoming acquainted fully, in any way, with the true state and gener-