

and energies which unrestrained discussion seldom fails to elicit.

It has not, therefore, been at any time the intention of the committee, nor do they believe it would comport with the views of any member of the government, to recommend the adoption of any measure which should "restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press," as secured by the Constitution, and deeply interwoven with the institutions and habits of the people. They are well persuaded, that the efforts of designing faction, of unchastened ambition, of false philanthropy and misguided zeal, to disturb the peace and endanger the safety of our sister States of the South, and involve us in serious difficulties with them, have so far yielded to rational reflection and the force of public sentiment, as to render legislation upon this subject unnecessary and inexpedient.

But in justice to themselves and to the occasion, the committee must express their accordancy with the opinion of his excellency the Governor, "that the Legislature possesses the power to pass such penal laws as will have the effect of preventing the citizens of this State and residents within it, from availing themselves, with impunity, of the protection of its sovereignty and laws, while they are actually employed in exciting insurrection and sedition in a sister State, or engaged in treasonable enterprises, intended to be executed therein."

What point of obligation, what degree of danger or of necessity, may justify the exercise of this power, and to what extent it may be carried consistently with the letter or spirit of the Constitution, the committee are not now called upon to determine. The crisis which may demand and justify its exercise, they trust is far distant: most fervently do they hope it may never arrive.

The people of this State, by their ready and numerous manifestations upon the subject under consideration, have furnished renewed and honorable evidence of their attachment to the Union. They have "frowned indignant-ly upon the first dawnings" of an insidious attempt to separate them from those with whom their welfare and prosperity are identified. They have, without religious or political distinction, declared their readiness to forego and to discountenance the exercise of abstract rights and the discussion of speculative doctrines, which