

the Federal Government she has always contended were restricted, limited and confined within the letter of that instrument. In the opinion of our people the framers of the Constitution rested its support and power upon the consent of the people of the different Confederate States, and never contemplated the employment of force against a Sovereign State to coerce its submission to or continuance in a Confederation deemed by its people oppressive and tyrannical. Our Fathers had but too recently felt the necessity which forced a loyal and true people to throw off a Government which proudly claimed to be the only power on the globe whose citizens were secured in the enjoyment of Constitutional liberty. With the experience of the then recent past, the Statesmen of 1788-9 looked with farseeing sagacity to the possibility of a loss of their liberties so dearly won, unless the new government about to be adopted for their protection, should be so limited and confined in its powers, and so arranged in its details, as to secure its entire force, efficacy and power from the enlightened public sentiment of the Country the full, free and cordial assent of the governed. This has always been the view entertained at the South in regard to the powers of the Federal Government. Indeed, one of the New England States - one which now denies the sovereignty of the several States, and is urging the Government at Washington to use the power of the Army and Navy to reduce to subjection the seceding Southern States, on no less than two occasions in its past history, has claimed for itself, the right to judge of the infraction of the Federal Constitution, and to assert its rights and duty to dissolve all further connection with the Federal Union. The doctrine of States rights and State Sovereignty as enunciated and declared in the Virginia - Kentucky resolutions of 99 we have held to be the chief safeguards of the liberties of the American people. For the first time in our National history, this doctrine has been ignored and denied by a commanding majority of the States of the Union. Our safety requires that we should look now alone to our own efforts and resources for the protection of our liberties and property so emphatically denied to us by our Northern associates. Maryland, in the opinion of Georgia, cannot with safety to her Citizens, continue longer in Confederation with the States of the North. And while we would not attempt to advise a people of such known intelligence and patriotism, as to their duty in this trying emergency, the fraternal regard we have ever borne towards your State and the deep solicitude which as brethren springs from the same Ancestry - with institutions so identical and interests so reciprocal impel us to give you our solemn warning of the dangers which surround you and which threaten in our honest judgment to destroy your domestic institutions and impede the prosperity and wealth of your noble State. Having