

## REPORT

Adopted by the General Assembly of the

*STATE OF MISSOURI,*

On a Report and Resolution of the

**LEGISLATURE OF GEORGIA.**

The Joint Committee, to whom were referred a report and resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia, approved December the twenty seventh, eighteen hundred and twenty seven, declaring that the Congress of the United States have no constitutional power to appropriate monies to aid the American Colonization Society—Report:

That in the doctrines, sentiments and opinions expressed and held by that report, they, for the most part, concur; and that the principles avowed by the resolution in question, meet their decided approbation. Your committee insist that the Government of the United States is a Government of limited powers; that no powers can be rightfully and constitutionally exercised by that Government, unless it be those which are expressly granted or those plainly implied by such express grants of power. And they further contend, that Congress has no power to appropriate money for any object, unless it be to carry into effect some one of the powers so expressly or impliedly granted. This power is not expressly granted, and this committee can find no clause in the constitution of the United States, from which such a power can be implied. They cannot conceive that it is within the meaning, spirit or reason of any provision of that instrument. If the exercise of the power in question, be claimed on the ground that Congress can appropriate the public funds *for any purpose whatever*, as is claimed by some politicians, then this committee enter their solemn protest against such an exercise of power, and unhesitatingly pronounce it to be a political heresy, deserving the severest reprobation. If this latitudinous doctrine be true, then our pretending to have a written constitution is a mere mockery; and much more strange is it that ours should be considered a limited form of Government. This Committee cannot suppose however, that the exercise of the power in question, is based upon such a ground. While indulging in conjecture, as to the clause of the constitution upon which the advocates of this