

measure rely, the committee have supposed it possible, that as the first clause of the eighth section of the first article of the Constitution, is considered as affording power to affect the purpose of every latitudinarian, when he can find no other clause upon which to rest himself—that this is the part of the Constitution now resorted to. This section provides, "That Congress shall have power, first, to levy and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises; to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States: but all duties and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States." Now if the words "general welfare," afford the power in question, then it affords power to do any act, which in the opinion of a majority of Congress, would promote the general welfare; and if this doctrine be correct, then all other parts of the constitution which declare the power that Congress shall possess, are worse than useless. If there be any room for construction as to this clause, we cannot suppose that these words were intended to mean more than to give Congress full and complete power over the subjects in that clause mentioned. It seems to the committee, that no other construction can be given to the words in question, without giving to Congress almost unlimited power. Your committee entirely concur in the report made to the Legislature of Georgia, when it said,

"That if the question of power is to be determined by construction, it is manifest on the face of the Constitution itself, that the Convention intended to prohibit Congress from the exercise of such power; for if the view before taken, does not prove this position to be correct, that portion of the Constitution which apportions representation and taxation, and distinctly recognizes the right of property, in that description of population upon which the exercise of this power is intended to operate, clearly shews that no power was given to Congress to interfere with this species of property. It is very far from the wish of this committee, to attempt to restrict in any manner, the efforts of individuals, in support of that society; it is to the interference of Government to which they object. They seriously apprehend that if this step be taken, the next proposition will be, that Government shall make the colony under its protection; and then it will be urged, that Congress should appropriate money for the purpose of purchasing slaves, liberating and transporting them to that colony. They are not unmindful of the progress of public sentiment on this subject; nor will they