

In the first of these resolutions, your committee entirely concur.—We have long entertained the opinion, that the division of the term of service of the Chief Magistrate, as now constitutionally provided, is pregnant with evil consequences to the best interests of the people. Such is the disposition of the human mind, that it delights in power, and when once gained, no expedient is left untried to retain it. This being the fact, we have no difficulty in conceiving it possible, for a Chief Magistrate of these United States, to neglect the public interests during his first term, in providing for a re-election to a second. Public opinion, which under a government like our's, very properly exercises a controlling influence upon the conduct of public servants, will frequently be inadequate to the prevention of the evil, because the actions upon which it would pass judgement, may not by possibility, have been exposed to its operation until his election to a second term, shall have rendered it too late for any beneficial purpose. A bare possibility of the occurrence of this state of things, is sufficient to urge us to unite in providing a remedy; which we think would be effectually accomplished by the amendment proposed by the Legislature of Louisiana, to which we have already referred.

In the expediency of so amending the Constitution of the United States, as to provide a uniform mode of electing the President and Vice President throughout the several states, we also concur. We have long regarded a uniform mode of electing the President and Vice President throughout the several states as a desideratum in our political code, and would gladly embrace an opportunity of uniting with our sister states, in devising a plan to remedy the defect. Of the correctness, however, of the policy of giving to the people of the United States, the privilege of voting directly for the President and Vice President, we are by no means confident.

It is known to all, who have any knowledge of our political history, that in the present apportionment of representation, slaves as well as freemen are included, and that in proportion to the representation of the states in the Legislative Departments of the general government, so is their weight in the scale of the Presidential Election. If therefore, the present mode of electing the President and Vice President, through the intervention of electors be changed, and the vote given directly to the people, to the slave holding states, the benefit of the weight of their slave population is lost, while that of the non-slave-holding states