

signed to favor. When, therefore, with this knowledge, they formed a constitution, granting to Congress a general and unqualified power to 'regulate commerce,' it must have been understood that the power might be used to cherish and foster the domestic industry and manufactures of the States as it has been elsewhere and every where used. And if it had been intended, to exclude from the general grant of power to 'regulate commerce,' the right to exercise it for the common and familiar purpose of encouraging domestic industry and manufactures, that exclusion would most certainly, in some way, have been expressed.

That the constitution of the United States *was* so understood and interpreted by many of its illustrious framers and their cotemporaries, is a fact demonstrable by unequivocal evidence. It would swell the argument unnecessarily on this point, to offer at length the authorities that might be adduced in support of it. A brief abstract of the opinions of some of the most distinguished, is all that will be attempted.

After the adoption of the federal constitution, the first Congress met in April, seventeen hundred and eighty-nine. Earlier than any other, the important subject of revenue claimed attention. The debates (which have been preserved, shed much light on the views of national policy, as expressed by the members of that enlightened assembly.

On the third day of the session, the house being in committee of the whole—"Mr. Madison, after a few observations on the great subject of finance and the deficiencies in the federal treasury, suggested the necessity of immediately adopting some measures upon the subject of national revenue. With this object in view, he produced a resolve, specifying certain articles, upon which an impost was proposed to be laid."

On the next day, the house being still in committee on the state of the Union, "Mr. Madison said, that with respect to the resolve before the committee his design was to have proposed a temporary system. He, however, perceived gentlemen were much divided. He conceived that very powerful motives existed, to induce the adoption of a plan that should come into immediate operation, &c. He remarked that some of the articles proposed, had reference to the encouragement of our own manufactures."

This resolution of Mr. Madison was subsequently withdrawn, as constituting a temporary system only, and he then moved, "That it is the opinion of this committee, that a