

The State of South-Carolina also asserts, First, that Congress "does not possess the power, under the constitution, to adopt a general system of internal improvements, as a national measure;" second, "That it is an unconstitutional exercise of power on the part of Congress, to tax the citizens of one State, to make roads and canals for another State;" and third, "That Congress has no power to construct roads and canals in the States, for the purpose of internal improvement, with or without the assent of the States in whose limits those internal improvements are made, the authority of Congress extending no further than to pass 'the necessary and proper laws' to carry into execution their enumerated powers."

The General Assembly believes, that Congress is invested by the constitution with the power to construct internal improvements, of a national character, within all or any of the States. The power it believes to be fairly deducible from the enumerated powers; but this question has been so often and so ably discussed, that it is not aware that any additional light can or need be thrown upon it. The General Assembly will, therefore, content itself with an examination of those reasons only, which are brought forward by the State of South-Carolina.

The first is a mere declaration of its opinion. As to the second, it is not known or believed, that Congress has ever, in fact, taxed the citizens of one State, to make roads and canals for another. If that had been done, it would be admitted to be unconstitutional. Congress has applied a part of the common resources of the whole nation, to the execution of works of national improvement, which must of necessity have fallen within the limits of one or more States; and such an application of them is believed to be strictly constitutional. If the State of South Carolina meant to assert, that the funds of the General Government cannot be applied to a local object, because that object is within a particular State, it would deprive the Government of some of its most important functions. Scarcely any State could suffer more by the adoption of such a principle than South Carolina; since it would deprive its great port of those costly national works, which are so essential to its defence, and which have been erected at the common expense of other States and of South Carolina.

The third reason brought forward by South Carolina denies the power, with or without the assent of the States in which