

and the subject was immediately commended to the attention of our ministers and agents abroad, and by them to the several governments to which they were accredited, by able arguments, and most forcible reasons, in favor of a reduction of the heavy duties and imposts now exacted upon the article in those countries.

Your committee regret to say, that little or no effect has yet been produced upon the subject by these exertions. In this state of the matter, the general convention was again called together at Washington, on the 16th December last, to consider upon what further means should be resorted to upon the subject, in case those before suggested should fail to produce the desired effect. In this convention, every portion of the tobacco growing region was represented;—many of the ablest and best informed citizens of our country, of all political parties were present—they deliberated upon the subject maturely, and after it was discussed at great length, and with great ability, they came to the conclusion that in the event of the entire failure of the means already adopted to accomplish the desired object, the only effectual remedy for the evils, the tobacco interest labours under, is to be found in the action of Congress by countervailing duties.

Your committee fully concur in the above view of the subject. Those nations with whom we are connected by the friendly relations of trade, persevere in maintaining their oppressive system of imposts upon our tobacco, amounting, in some instances, to eight and ten times the amount which the grower receives as a compensation for the toil and labor of producing it, and our flour is also taxed so high in some instances, that it cannot be consumed at all, except when their inhabitants are on the verge of starvation. While they thus tax our staple products, we are receiving their's at the rate upon an average of about twelve and a half per cent. ad valorem. After having exhausted all other peaceful means, and having borne patiently with the evil so long, we can see no good reason why we should not resort to countervailing duties upon their products, in defence of our just rights. Your committee do confidently believe, that a resort to a high rate of duties upon the importation of the products of those nations of whose policy we have the greatest reason to complain, would prove most effectual.—An increase of duty to an amount sufficient to reduce, in a great degree, the demand for their products in this country, would produce a degree of distress amongst the industrious inhabi-