

of Alabama on this subject. Nothing is more calculated to degrade the sovereignty of the States, than dependence upon the funds of the General Government for the payment of their debts. It is acknowledging their own inability. The States thus admit their degradation. As one of those States, South-Carolina admits no such inability to meet her own engagements; and she is not willing that her sister States should be degraded by any such imputations. From what fund could the United States pay the debts of the States? The only sources are—the National Domain, or the Revenue from taxation. The opinion heretofore expressed by this Legislature, in relation to the public domain, is unaltered. It is a National fund, bestowed for National purposes, and to divert it to the payment of the debts of such unthrifty States as have got in debt beyond what prudence will sanction, is an unauthorized disposition of this source of National income. The example would be peculiarly pernicious—the best security against extravagance is the duty of paying the debts contracted, either by States or individuals. Every State is able, by a manly and honorable resort to State taxation, to pay all its debts; and the lesson, thus taught to the people, will be a wholesome restriction on future extravagance. Your Committee therefore beg leave to report the following Resolutions:

Resolved, That the assumption of the debts of the States, by the United States, would degrade the sovereignty of the States, and be a precedent fatal to their rights and independence.

Resolved, That the diversion of the National Domain to the payment of State debts would be a perversion of the expressed object for, which it was ceded to the Union—would be bad faith to the States, who ceded it, and a dereliction of the trust reposed in the National Government.

Resolved, That the above Resolutions be communicated to the Governors of the States, and to our representatives in Congress, requesting them to lay the same before that body.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

Boston April 17th 1843.

SIR:—I have the honor to transmit to you, by order of His Excellency the Governor, the enclosed copies of certain Resolutions of the Legislature of this Commonwealth.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

JNO. A. BOLLES,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.