

munication to you, events have taken place in the natural and political world, some of which have been distinguished by nothing uncommon, whilst others have been peculiarly distressing. The most fearful visitation of disease, which we have ever experienced, has, since we parted, visited our state, and has now passed away. The dreaded enemy has been encountered, and although some valuable citizens have perished, yet upon the whole, we have most abundant cause to be thankful to the Divine Disposer of events that we have suffered comparatively so little. The Asiatic Cholera, in its approach to us, carried dismay into the stoutest hearts, and whilst the panic continued, was more appalling than the ascertained existence of it. Our state has suffered in some of her cities and villages, but a merciful Providence has prevented the ravages of the Destroyer from extending throughout the country. The productions of the earth, necessary to the existence and welfare of man, have been bountifully granted to us and the cup of our felicity would be full; but for the spirit of insubordination, which has evinced itself by a part of the population of a sister state. Whilst this subject presses upon my mind, I would call your attention to the accompanying ordinance of the convention of South Carolina, transmitted to this department by that body, with a request that it may be laid before you. In noticing this extraordinary document, I would beg leave to state that nothing but a solemn conviction of duty would induce any remarks from me, in the hope that reflection amongst this deluded people will create a reaction and induce them to a different course—yet having been myself taught not to shrink from responsibility in the expression of opinions, when such opinions seemed to be called for, I submit my views upon the subject. The doctrines of South Carolina, I conscientiously believe, will be rejected by the unanimous voice of the people of Maryland. The doctrine of nullification, I hold to be perfectly untenable. If a state has the right to nullify the acts of the General Government, each citizen of a state has the same right to nullify the acts of a state—such a doctrine would meet with universal reprobation—yet such a result would only be carrying out *in extenso*, the doctrine advanced by South Carolina. Upon the subject of disunion, I would speak in still stronger language. Such a topic a few years back, would have been received every where with execration; it is here still considered as sacrilege, a severance of the union of soul and body, and only to be thought