

political world, some of which have been distinguished by nothing more or less  
whilst they 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 pain continued was more appalling than  
the anticipated existence of it. Our State has suffered in some of the 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, trans-  
mitted 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 the  
deluded people will create a re-action 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 seem 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, should to be properly  
maintained. 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 excite with universal  
reprobation — yet such a result would only be carrying out, in extent,  
the doctrine advanced by South Carolina. Upon the subject of secession  
I would speak a still stronger language. Such a topic a few years  
back, would have been received with execration, it is here  
still considered as sacrilege, a severance of the Union of Soul and Body,  
and only to be thought of by desperate men, or unfortunate slaves.  
I would appeal to the gallant Carolinians, and point them to the  
fields upon their soil where the toil of the Patriots of '76 was sown  
where heroic deeds were performed, and where the best blood of the  
Country was spilt to purchase that Independence and Liberty  
which are now spoken of so lightly. I would then ask them, what are  
the feelings of that heroic individual who flew to aid us from a  
foreign Land, in the days of our adversity, and first put his foot on the  
Soil of Carolina, when he shall hear that the beautiful fabric of  
liberty, which he aided in creating is about to be torn down. I do  
hope that a people can govern themselves shall be maintained.