a premature rupture may prevent such a consequence, and that the people of Carolina may be taught to look upon the earnest prayer of every good citizen, that peace, happiness and mutual consideration may be restored to our Union.

Our country during the past fifteen years has experienced an irreparable loss in the decease of the venerable Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the last surviving patriot who proclaimed our Independence. The last letter he wrote breathed a prayer for the perpetuity of our Union, "the last breath he uttered was a fervent wish for the long continuance of the blessings, their forefathers had secured to them by their sacred honors" to perpetuate. The Independence he had been so instrumental in proclaiming has been gathered to the home of his fathers. He had lived to see our country rise from a state of dependence to a position among the nations of the earth, unexampled for its rapid growth in population and wealth, and the stability of our institutions. He had lived to see our country engaged in a war with that same power, against which our fathers had taught him to lift his voice in prayer, and to see the result of that war, which resulted in greatly augmenting our national glory. He had lived to see our numerous and diversified interests rapidly developing under the guidance of our National Legislature. He had lived to see our country in gigantic strides to the attainment of the legitimate objects of Government — the prosperity and happiness of the people. He had lived to see us attain the foremost rank among the nations of the earth, and the influence of our example in returning from the depths of despotic oppression, and establishing a strong and vigorous government upon their ruins. And his heart gladdened at the high and glorious prospects of his country, and at the stability of the institutions he had assisted to erect. — But he had lived to see our country become involved in a war, which put to the test our institutions, and the stability of our institutions, and which, while it has added to our glory, has called upon us indignantly to frown upon and to disdain that treason which would dare to lift its sacrilegious hand against the glorious Union.

The present chief magistrate of our country, having been re-called by the voice of the people, his fellow citizens, to the station he so long and so faithfully filled, feels it his duty, at the commencement of his second term of office, to present to the National Legislature, the prosperity and happiness of our country, and the progress of the Nation in the past year, and to suggest for the consideration of the National Legislature, the propriety of adopting such measures as may be deemed necessary for the future prosperity of the Nation.

I have carefully examined all the documents upon the subject which have been submitted to me by the enlightened statesmen who preceded me as chairman of the committee of Ways and Means of the House of Delegates. My impression was formerly decidedly hostile to the measure but from conversation I now believe my change of sentiment, and the reason of my change is found in the speeches which other statesmen have exhibited in other states. Since the subject