

A Letter to a Whig Member of the Southern Independence Association.

MY DEAR —

You and I have some political principles in common, and there is therefore no absurdity in my attempting to reason with you on a political question as to which we happen to differ. Your Association wishes this country to lend assistance to the Slave-owners of the Southern States, in their attempt to effect a disruption of the American Commonwealth, and to establish an independent Power, having, as they declare, Slavery for its corner-stone. I am one of those who are convinced that in doing so she would commit a great folly and a still greater crime, the consequences of which would in the end fall on her own head. If you were an enemy to free institutions, and a lover of "Slavery, Subordination, and Government," I should at once understand your position, and despair of moving you from it by any arguments of mine. But as you are a friend to free institutions, at least up to the measure of 1688, I do not so entirely despair of offering you such reasons as may at least induce you to hesitate before you plunge your country into