

only that this general government is the creature of the states, but that it is the creature of each of the states severally ; so that each may assert the power for itself, of determining whether it acts within the limits of its authority. It is the servant of four and twenty masters of different wills and different purposes, and yet bound to obey all."

Therefore, the constituted authorities of the United States are no longer a government, if they be not masters of their own will ; they are no longer a government, if an external power may arrest their proceedings ; they are no longer a government if acts passed by . . . Houses and approved by the President, may be nullified by state vetoes or state ordinances.

"It is, Sir," continues Webster, "the people's constitution, the people's government, made for the people, made by the people and answerable to the people. The very chief end, the main design, for which the whole constitution was framed and adopted, was to establish a government that should not be obliged to act through State agency or depend on State opinion or State discretion. The people have wisely provided in the constitution itself, a proper suitable mode and tribunal for settling questions of constitutional law, by declaring, sir, that "the constitution and the laws of the United States, made in pursuance thereof, shall be the supreme law of the land, anything in the constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding." Moreover, "that the judicial power shall extend to all cases arising under the constitution and laws of the United States."

Hence any law which comes in conflict with the constitution is not valid, and the general government alone has the exclusive prerogative of deciding on the constitutionality of the laws.

Webster's unerring regularity, force and intelligence, in vindicating the home government having been thus clearly illustrated, we might hazard a few remarks on the wonderful felicity of expression, the wealth and simple beauty of style, emanating from the amplitude of his learning. The very nature of his mind required a proportionate degree of influence over language. Words shape themselves to his thought ; he is not mastered by them ; he has none of the faults which spring from verbal fluency. It is his ponderous wield of syllables which makes his sarcasm trenchant and pungent ; it is his graceful manipulation of expression which gives a good-humored coloring to his words ; it is the simple enunciation of his reasoning that makes his arguments clear and tenable to the least comprehensive mind ; it is the pure, ennobling, lofty diction, springing from his deep sensi-