

tion adjourned early in January. On the 27th of the same month, an act of Congress was passed, which gave to the State Governments, the very power which was sought by Massachusetts; viz—that of 'raising, organizing and officering' state troops, 'to be employed in the State raising the same, or in an adjoining State' and providing for their pay and subsistence. This we repeat was the most important object aimed at by the institution of the convention, and by the report of that body. Had this act of Congress passed, before the act of Massachusetts, for organizing the convention, *that convention never would have existed*. Had such an act been anticipated by the convention, or passed before its adjournment, that assembly would have considered its commission as in a great measure, superseded. For although it prepared and reported sundry amendments to the constitution of the United States, to be submitted to *all* the States, and might even, if knowing of this act of Congress, have persisted in doing the same thing; yet, as this proposal for amendments could have been accomplished in other modes, they could have had no special motive for so doing, but what arose from their being together; and from the consideration which might be hoped for, as to their propositions, from that circumstance. It is thus matter of absolute demonstration, to all who do not usurp the privilege of the *SEARCHER of hearts* that the design of the Hartford convention and its doings were not only constitutional and laudable, but sanctioned by an act of Congress, passed after the report was published, not indeed with express reference to it, but with its principal features, and thus admitting the reasonableness of its general tenor, and principal object. It is indeed grievous to perceive Mr Adams condescending to intimate that the Convention was adjourned to Boston, and in a strain of rhetorical pathos connecting his imaginary plot, then at least in the thirteenth year of its age, with the 'catastrophe' which awaited the ultimate proceedings of the convention. That assembly *adjourned without day, after making its report*. It was ipso facto dissolved, like other Committees. One of its resolutions did indeed purport that 'if the application of these States to the government of the United States, (*recommended in a foregoing resolution*) *should be unsuccessful, and peace should not be concluded, and the defence of these States should be neglected as it has been*, since the commencement of the war, it will be, in the opinion of this Convention, expedient for the Legislature of the several States, to appoint delegates to another Convention to meet at Boston on the third Tuesday of June next, with such powers and instructions as the exigency of a crisis, so momentous may require.' On this it is to be observed,

First, That the Convention contemplated in the foregoing resolution never was appointed, and never could have been, according to the terms of that resolution; because, as is shown above, the object of the intended application to Congress had been attained. And, Secondly, if the contingencies mentioned in that resolution