

to extend the laws of the United States to the said State," the said State of Louisiana was admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the other States. This act was, in the opinion of your Committee, a manifest usurpation by the Congress of the United States of a power not granted to that body by the federal Constitution. The State of Louisiana was formed, in *countries situated beyond the limits of the old United States* ; according as those limits were established by the treaty of Paris, commonly called the Treaty of Peace, in the year 1783 ; and as they existed, at the time of the formation and adoption of the federal Constitution. And the position, which your Committee undertake to maintain is this, that the Constitution of the United States did not invest Congress with the power to admit into the Union, States, *created in territories, not included within the limits of the United States* ; as they existed at the peace of 1783, and at the formation and adoption of the Constitution. Your Committee are thus particular, in stating with precision, the constitutional ground, which they maintain, because the doctrine, here asserted, has been confounded, sometimes, artfully, sometimes, negligently, with the questions, which have arisen, concerning the admission of Kentucky, Vermont, Ohio ; or which may arise, on the admission of new States, to be created in the Michigan, Indiana or Illinois territories. With none of which has the question, now under consideration any affinity. These last mentioned States and territories all lie *within the old limits of the United States*, as settled by the Treaty of Peace, and as existing at the time of the formation and adoption of the federal Constitution. Now the State of Louisiana lies *without those limits* ; and on this distinction the whole question of constitutional right depends. The power, assumed by Congress, in passing this act for the admission of Louisiana, if acquiesced in, is plainly a power to admit new States, in-

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