

particular subject of animadversion is independent, altogether, of the principle of the war ; so far as this principle is known. Besides, it would be little else than a bounty, on foreign war, if domestick usurpation should find in it a shield, or a sanction. Your Committee have given this consideration the less importance from the conviction, they entertain, that the American people may have peace, whenever the administration of the general government shall seek it, with a sincere disposition for its attainment.

As your Committee have deemed it their duty not to be restrained, by such temporary considerations, from a deliberate and publick examination of the subject submitted to their inquiry, so, also, they have not been disposed to connect this great, constitutional question with the transient calamities of the day, from which it is, in their opinion, very apparently, distinguished, both in its cause and its consequences. In the view, therefore, they are about to present of this great constitutional question, they have confined themselves, strictly, to topicks and arguments drawn from the terms of the Constitution, and the history of the period, at which it was adopted ; and with a reference to fulfil their duty to their country and posterity, by a distinct avowal of their opinions and the grounds of them, with the hope of limiting the farther progress of the evil, rather than any expectation of immediate relief, during the continuance of the existing influences in the national administration.

The question, touching the admission, into the Union, of states, created in territories, lying without the ancient limits of the United States, has been considered, by your Committee, in relation to constitutional principles and political consequences. By an Act of the Congress of the United States, passed the 8th day of April, 1812, entitled, " an Act for the admission of the State of Louisiana into the Union and