

Inestimable are the blessings of that well regulated freedom, which permits man to direct his labors and his enterprise to the pursuit or branch of industry to which he conceives nature has qualified him, unmolested by avarice enthroned in power. Such was the freedom for which South Carolina struggled when a dependant colony.— Such is the freedom of which she once tasted as the first fruit of that revolutionary triumph which she assisted to achieve. Such is the freedom she reserved to herself on entering into the league. Such is the freedom of which she has been deprived, and to which she must be restored, if her commerce be worth preserving, or the spirit of her Laurens and her Gadsden has not fled forever from our bosoms. It is in vain to tell South Carolina that she can look to any administration of the federal government for the protection of her sovereign rights, or the redress of her southern wrongs. Where the fountain is so polluted, it is not to be expected that the stream will again be pure.— The protection to which in all representative Governments the people have been accustomed to look, to wit, the responsibility of the governors to the governed, has proved nerveless and illusory—under such a system, nothing but a radical reform in our political institutions can preserve this union. It is full time that we should know what rights we have under the federal constitution, and more especially ought we to know whether we are to live under a consolidated government, or a confederacy of States—whether the States be sovereign or their local Legislatures be mere corporations, A FRESH UNDERSTANDING OF THE BARGAIN we deem absolutely NECESSARY. No mode can be devised by which a dispute can be referred to the source of all power, but by some one state taking the lead in the great enterprize of reform. Till some one Southern State tenders to the federal government an issue, it will continue to have its “appetite increased by what it feeds on.” History admonishes us that rulers never have the forecast to substitute in good time reform for revolution. They forget that it is always more desirable that the just claims of the governed should break in on them “through well contrived and well disposed windows, not through flaws and breaches, through the yawning chasms of their own ruin.” One State must under the awful prospects before us, throw herself into the breach in this great struggle for constitutional freedom. There is no other mode of awakening the attention of the co-states to grievances which if suffer-