

in the ruin and destruction of both sections, and a longer continuance of it will utterly annihilate the last hope of a reconstruction of this Union; therefore we want peace, and are in favor of a recognition of the Southern Confederacy, and an acknowledgement of its government.

Which was adopted.

The question was then taken on the

FOURTH RESOLUTION:

*Resolved, 4.*—That we deem the writ of *habeas corpus* the great safeguard of personal liberty, and we view with the utmost alarm and indignation the exercise of the despotic power that has dared to suspend it in the case of John Merryman, now confined in Fort McHenry.

Which was adopted.

The question was then taken on the

PREAMBLE TO THE RESOLUTIONS :

“WHEREAS, We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that amongst these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundations on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness;” and,

WHEREAS, The doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind; and,

WHEREAS, Standing armies are dangerous to liberty, and ought not to be raised or kept up without the consent of the Legislature; and,

WHEREAS, In all cases and at all times the military ought to be under strict subordination to, and control of, the civil power, and that the people of this State ought to have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police thereof; and that in all criminal prosecutions, every man hath a right to be informed of the accusation against him, to have a copy of the indictment or charge in due time (if required) to prepare for his defense, to be allowed counsel, to be confronted with the witnesses against him, to have process for his witnesses, to ex-