

Confederacy. These facts admonish us that no precautions for the future should be neglected because of any apparent security at present.

Notwithstanding the undoubted loyalty of a vast majority of our people, there is confessedly in our midst an active, intelligent and unscrupulous secession element, ready and anxious, on the first opportunity, to lend a helping hand to those now threatening us with invasion. So inveterate is this determination, so intense this hostility to the National Government, that men under its influence, whether the invasion is threatened from beyond the Potomac or from the other side the Atlantic, hardly affect to conceal the delight which the prospect affords them. With a treasonable temper of this flagrant character, therefore, in our midst, you will readily perceive the essential importance, at such a time as this, of arresting as far as possible its power for mischief. All experience has proved that forceable resistance to established authority, whether in the shape of a tumultuous mob or an organized rebellion, to be successfully resisted, must be promptly and vigorously met, and that to dally with it at all is a dangerous experiment.

Our ancestors manifested their appreciation of this principle when they passed the act of February session, 1777, entitled, "An act to punish certain crimes and misdemeanors and prevent the growth of toryism;" and whilst all its provisions may not be applicable at this day, it may at least furnish serviceable suggestions, as well as recall to our attention the manner in which the men of the Revolution dealt with such offences.

And if, in the language of that act, "dangerous consequences were apprehended from a delay of effectual measures" against the toryism or treason of that day, when such offences went skulking from one hiding place to another, how much greater the danger to be apprehended now, when they hold their head aloft and openly avow their sympathy with the public enemy.

I am pleased to see that your attention has been already directed to the necessity of providing, by all practicable means, against the treasonable practices which are known to prevail; and that there is apparently but little difference of opinion upon the propriety of such provisions, beyond such as is suggested by a desire to avoid any possible conflict with Federal authority on the same subject. The people of the State have undoubtedly looked for some additional guards to their future security at the hands of the present Legislature. At the same time I am satisfied that such is their confidence in its patriotism and intelligence, that they are prepared, without hesitation, to acquiesce in its judgment, assured that every such