

that government, except such as were delegated at its adoption and are expressed in the Constitution; and with all deference to the presence before which they come with this petition, they pronounce and denounce the exertion of power, manifested in the acts above recited, usurpation. Those who exercise it—usurpers,—and *their* aiders and abettors in the State of Maryland—traitors—traitors to Maryland, where they owe allegiance, and traitors to the United States, whose constitution they subvert with force.

It may be, that at this time, the Legislature may be unable to accomplish anything to abate the rigor of a necessity, under which the loyal men of Maryland are held in determined submission.

On this subject the Legislature has acted, and the undersigned do not mean to indulge any review. But the Legislature is the only power, through whose agency the sovereign will can exert efficient action. How soon the occasion for such action may be presented, or how long deferred, is not to be considered. The extent to which freemen may be brought to endure, by the guilty contrivance of those in authority, is undergoing a cruel test in Maryland. But the end *must* come, and come when it may, the Legislative arm will be wanted to supply the means of redress. It belongs to the people. An "extraordinary occasion" has lifted it up. Let it not relapse until the exigency has past. Let not the powers of the State be again committed to those "very learned and intelligent citizens" who, using the Executive with suple art, have prostituted them to the purposes of the parasites of power. The expense of continued or of frequent sessions, is not to be weighed, in such a crisis. Nothing is to be put in the scale, against the liberty of the people.

The subscribers will cheerfully incur their respective shares of the cost, and they believe their fellow-citizens generally in the State, who have not taken a willing part in the treason that yet reigns rampant are ready and resolved to partake. In the firm trust that the General Assembly concur in heart with the prayer herein made, and that they will act as they feel, the undersigned will ever pray, &c.

[Signed,]

RICHARD B. CARMICHAEL,

and 48 other citizens.