

which it is impossible that we can be as capable of judging as they are, the committee think the legislature will best consult their duty and the interests of all, by concurring themselves, at this time, to the general expression of opinion which is now most respectfully proposed.

If by a faithful adherence to the principles here advanced in their behalf, the people of this state can contribute to the restoration and preservation of that fraternal association in which the Union was originally founded, by which it was once cemented, and which is so essential to its preservation, it will be to them a source of much joy and deep gratitude to the Supreme Disposer of events, for the agency they have been permitted to exercise in effecting so great a good. But if, on the contrary, their well-meant efforts prove unavailing; if the offerings of peace and good will which have been so freely and so sincerely tendered by them, in conjunction with their co-states who participate in the same sentiments, shall be rejected; if, in the Providence of God, it be decreed that this government and this happy Union, the affairs of which have been hitherto so successfully directed by it, are to be put to the final test, the government and people of this state will meet the crisis with the sustaining consciousness, that they have done all the duty enjoined and honor permitted to avert the worst calamity that could befall the country.

The committee respectfully suggest, for the consideration of the Legislature, the following resolutions: