

action of the people will be firm, manly, persistent and courageous in the effort to regain their rights *they will be regained*, and through the forms of law, before many years elapse even if this Legislature fails *to act*. No such enactments can remain long upon the Statute Books of Maryland. It is only a question of time. Is it not better at once to begin the era of good feeling in the State than to postpone it? Is it not better that rather than others who are to come after us should begin the good work of restoring our organic law to a true annunciation of republican principles? Is it not better that we should by our Legislation *foster now* our State prosperity than delay and loiter on the way?

The minority of this committee in seeking to administer that relief which is demanded, finds the subject attended with some embarrassment. Only a few days more of the session remain. The views of the Executive have been expressed as opposed to any action on this subject changing at this time the present qualifications of voters in the State.

While the minority of the committee would favor the adoption of the bill which has been referred to them, and also the adoption of the joint resolutions, in the form in which they were originally presented, he is satisfied there is no possibility of securing the passage of either measure at this session, and he therefore submits for the action of the Senate joint resolutions in an amended form, appended to this report.

The adoption of these resolutions, while they give *some* response to the popular demands, are not in conflict with the position assumed by the Governor in his message. They propose no modification of the law at this session; the Legislature assumes no *direct* responsibility. The next election will be conducted according to the existing legislative and constitutional provisions. The question is remitted to the registered voters to say whether such an amendment of the constitution shall be made. While the minority of the committee proposes this measure of relief as falling far short of his own individual views, he urges the adoption by the Legislature of this restricted measure of redress with an earnestness he has never felt upon any other subject of legislative action.

DANIEL CLARKE,
from Select Committee.