

people of the rebellious States was that of abject submission. Having appealed to the tribunal of arms, they had no hope, except that by the magnanimity of their conquerors, their lives, and possibly their property, might be preserved." But the committee found evidence of a great and sudden change in the feelings of those people. They say "the general issue of pardons to persons who had been prominent in the rebellion, and the feeling of kindness and conciliation manifested by the executive, and very generally indicated through the Northern press, had the effect to render whole communities forgetful the crime they had committed, defiant towards the general government, and regardless of their duties as citizens. The conciliatory measures of the government do not seem to have been met even half way. The bitterness and defiance exhibited towards the United States, is without a parallel in the history of the world. In return for our leniency, we receive only an insulting denial of our authority. In return for our kind desire for the resumption of fraternal relations, we receive only an insolent assumption of rights and privileges long since forfeited."

"The conclusion of the committee, therefore, is, that the so-called Confederate States are not, at present, entitled to representation in the Congress of the United States; that before allowing such representation, adequate security for future peace and safety should be required; that this can only be found in such changes of the organic law as shall determine the civil rights and privileges of all citizens in all parts of the republic, and place representation on an equitable basis, shall fix a stigma upon treason, and protect loyal people against future claims for the expenses incurred in support of the rebellion and for manumitted slaves, together with an express grant of power in Congress to enforce those provisions." To this end they offer a joint resolution for amending the Constitution of the United States, and "the two bills designed to carry the same into effect before referred to." They admit that they are "sensible of the imperfections of the scheme," but submit it to Congress as the best they could agree upon, in the hope that its imperfections may be cured and its deficiencies supplied by legislative wisdom; and that when finally adopted it may tend to restore peace and harmony to the whole country, and place our republican institutions on a more stable foundation."

We have thus a brief history of the proposed amendment to change "the organic law." The avowed purpose is, to punish "insurgents, rebels and traitors," "public enemies of the United States," "enemies conquered in war" as the report describes them, in order to future peace and safety.

There are several striking incongruities in this proposition. The first is, that while this demand for additional powers to be conferred upon the Federal Government, is presented in