

sovereign and co-equal States, the purposes thereof being "to form a more perfect union, to establish justice, to insure domestic tranquility, to provide for the common defense, to promote the general welfare, and to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity;" and,

*Whereas*, The said Constitution contains certain provisions and conditions, which, being perpetual in their nature and design, cannot be destroyed without the sanction and approval of all the States contracting to the same; and,

*Whereas*, The affending power contained in the Fifth Article thereof is *qualified*, and not *absolute*, and cannot be exercised except in the mode and manner therein prescribed; and,

*Whereas*, No power exists, under this Constitution, for any number of States less than the whole of them, in general convention, to nullify, expunge, make void or destroy any part or portion thereof; and as each State in such a Convention would be the equal of every other State—free, independent and sovereign, to all intents and purposes, and as such could not be held to accept or submit to any organic law obnoxious to itself, but could accept or reject as it might please to elect; and,

*Whereas*, The XIII., XIV., and XV., amendments to the Federal Constitution, so-called, are *not amendatory* thereto, but do oppose, annul, expunge, vacate, make void and destroy certain *perpetual*, unalterable and unamendable Articles and provisions of the same, which Articles and provisions form the basis of our federative system, and which are absolutely essential to the preservation of liberty and the existence of the Federal Union, under the Constitution; and,

*Whereas*, It is manifest that these so-called "amendments" are designed, by their authors, to crush the sovereignty of the several States, and to blot out their individual existence, to destroy the liberties of the people and to establish a despotism; and

*Whereas*, The said so-called "amendments" have not been proposed or ratified even in conformity with the forms of the 5th Article of the Constitution, much less with the positive requirements thereof, but have been proposed and declared established by Congress in direct violation of the same, the said Congress being only a co-ordinate branch of the government appointed by the States, and not empowered by any inherent authority to act outside of the Constitution under any circumstances whatever; and

*Whereas*, That portion of the Constitution which provides that "the powers not delegated to the federal copartnership by the Articles of Agreement thereof, nor prohibited by them to the States, are reserved to the States, respectively, or to the people," is *not subject to amendment*, it containing the