

and the ordinances of secession were not, as a general rule, submitted to the people for ratification.

In the Border Slave States there was also a marked difference of opinion and feeling on the question. As late as April 11, 1861, three resolutions which were presented in the Virginia Convention containing declarations in favor of the withdrawal of that State from the Union under certain conditions were rejected by decisive and significant majorities.

Prior to April 15, 1861, the people of Kentucky and Missouri were, if possible, more decided in their opposition to secession than were the people of Virginia, and in Maryland, before the date mentioned, practically the whole population was opposed to the action of the Cotton States, and desired a peaceful solution of the public difficulties, and the maintenance of the Union.

To carry out any plan of pacification, and to endeavor to adjust the practical questions connected with the institution of slavery in its relations to the Federal Government, the Border Slave States were ready to give that Government their support, and from the election of Mr. Lincoln, the people of these States never ceased to urge upon the Federal authorities the policy of peace.

While affairs were in this critical state, there came the bombardment of Fort Sumter, and before the smoke had rolled away from Charleston harbor there came, on April 15, 1861, the proclamation of President Lincoln, declaring that the laws were being opposed, and that their execution was obstructed in the Cotton States, and calling forth the militia of the several States of the Union to the aggregate number of 75,000 men to cause the laws to be duly executed.

What was the effect of this proclamation upon the people of the Border States? They had been offering their support to the Federal Government on all constitutional measures for the preservation of peace, and now they were commanded to submit to the exercise, by the President of the United States, of powers unwarranted by the Constitution and the laws, and their resolution was quickly taken. Arkansas, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia each passed an ordinance of secession, and, although the free expression of change in the feeling of the people of Kentucky, Missouri and Maryland, which was very decided, was prevented by force, the action of the Federal Government was strongly resented.

The position of Maryland was a most critical one; and while, after the President's proclamation, a large number of her people sympathized with the South, there was a feeling underneath that, on account of her geographical position, her fortunes were linked with those of the North. In the call of the President for troops, four Maryland regiments were included, and after that call a marked division manifested itself among the people of Baltimore. Business was almost suspended, a spirit of unrest and strife seemed to be in the air, and it was difficult for the police to preserve the peace.