

for trial upon charges or pretended charges, has taken the private property of our citizens, has caused peaceable travellers to be stopped and their persons, trunks and papers to be searched, has arrested and caused to be imprisoned without any civil process whatever, the persons of our citizens, and by the military power kept and still keeps them in confinement against and in contempt of all civil process ;

Now, therefore be it resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That recognizing our relation to the Federal Government, we feel that while we cannot do more we can do no less than enter this our solemn protest, against the said acts of the President of the United States, and declare the same to be gross usurpation, unjust, oppressive, tyrannical and in utter violation of common right and of the plain provisions of the constitution

Resolved, That the right of separation from the Federal Union is a right neither arising under, nor prohibited by the Constitution, but a sovereign right, independent of the Constitution, to be exercised by the several States upon their own responsibility, neither do we believe that the Federal Government has any power under the Constitution to wage war against a State for the purpose of subjugation or conquest.

Resolved, That prudence and policy demand that the war now waged shall cease, that if persisted in, it will result in the ruin and destruction of both sections, and a longer continuance of it will utterly annihilate the last hope of a reconstruction of this Union ; therefore we want peace, and are in favor of a recognition of the Southern Confederacy and an acknowledgment of its government

Resolved, That we deem the writ of Habeas Corpus the great safeguard of personal liberty, and we view with the utmost alarm and indignation the exercise of the despotic power, that has dared to suspend it in the case of John Merryman now confined in Fort McHenry.

NUMBER 15.

RESOLUTIONS protesting against the unconstitutional and illegal acts of President Lincoln

WHEREAS, The military authorities of the Government of the United States in Baltimore have assumed to remove from office the Marshal of Police of that city, an officer of the State of Maryland, and to appoint his successor ; and have further assumed to dismiss from office the Board of Police of Baltimore, a body clothed with high powers by the State of Maryland for the protection of its citizens ; and have actually put an end by force, to the exercise by said Board, of its lawful and important functions ; and have appointed sundry individuals, in large numbers, to govern the said city, as policemen, in contempt of the constitutional rights of the State of Maryland and in open and flagrant violation of its laws, and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States instead of rebuking the wrong and usurpation aforesaid, has justified and approved the same, under color of "Military necessity," not known to the institutions of the country and fatal to its liberties, and has appropriated large sums