

The Government of the Confederate States receive with respect the suggestion of the State of Maryland, that there should be "a general cessation of hostilities now impending, until the meeting of the Congress in July next, in order that said body may, if possible, arrange for an adjustment of existing troubles, by means of negotiation, rather than the sword," but is at a loss how to reply, without a repetition of the language it has used on every possible occasion that has presented itself, since the establishment of its independence. In deference to the State of Maryland, however, it again asserts, in the most emphatic terms, that its sincere and earnest desire is for peace; that whilst the Government would readily entertain any proposition from the Government of the United States tending to a peaceful solution of the pending difficulties, the recent attempts of this Government to enter into negotiations with that of the United States, were attended with results which forbid any renewal of proposals from it to that Government.

If any further assurance of the desire of this Government for peace were necessary, it would be sufficient to observe that, being formed of a confederation of sovereign States, each acting and deciding for itself, the right of every other sovereign State to the same self-action and self-government is necessarily acknowledged. Hence, conquests of other States are wholly inconsistent with the fundamental principles, and subversive of the very organization of this Government. Its policy cannot but be peace—peace with all nations and people.

Very respectfully,

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Messrs. McKaig, Yellott and Harding, Committee of Maryland Legislature.

Which was read.

Mr. Lynch submitted the following:

Ordered, That five thousand copies of the Report and Resolutions be printed for the use of the Senate, with the Report from the House.

Mr. Kimmel moved to strike out five thousand and insert one thousand.

The question was taken upon the order.

The yeas and nays being demanded, appeared as follows:

AFFIRMATIVE.

Messrs. Brooke, President ;
Blackistone,
Lynch,

McKaig,
Watkins,
Whitaker—6.