

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 relations to the Federal Government, we feel that whilst 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, 2.*—That the right of a State to secede, is not a constitutional right, but an act of revolution, and any State seceding does so at its own peril; 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, 3.*—That prudence and policy demand, that the war now being 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, 4.*—That we deem the Writ of Habeas Corpus, the great safe-guard 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.

Said resolutions being upon their second reading,

Mr. Scott proposed the following amendment as a substitute for resolution two:

*Resolved, 2.*—That the right of any State to secede from the confederacy, formed under the constitution of 1789, is a reserved right, and grows out of the right of every people to have a government which is both able and willing to protect the rights of its citizens, and does do so; and because the Federal Government and the Northern States and people have denied and invaded the rights of the Southern States and of the Southern people, therefore the Southern States rightfully and properly seceded from the said confederacy, and ought to de-