

nate suddenly, and at an earlier day than present appearances indicate;

AND WHEREAS, From the commencement of hostilities to the present time, Maryland has been restrained by the policy of the administration at Washington from giving full and free expression of the will of her people through the ballot-box, as to whether she will adhere South or North, in the event of a final acknowledgment of the independence of the Confederate States on the part of the Federal Government;

AND WHEREAS, Believing as we do, in the cardinal principle asserted in our bill of rights, "that government of right originates from the people, and derives its just powers from the consent of the governed;" therefore;

*Resolved, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the sovereignty of this State belongs to the people thereof; that in the event of a restoration of peace, and an acknowledgment of the independence of the Confederate States by the Federal Government, the position of Maryland will then be an open one, subject alone to the will of the people clearly expressed through a State convention of their own choosing, and that the question can then and only then be legitimately decided whether this State will go South or North;

Which was read the first time.

The Secretary of the Senate delivered the following:

WHEREAS, The Legislature has been informed that the southern troops are now destroying the dams, locks, canal boats and other property belonging to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, and to individuals doing business; and,

WHEREAS, Our commissioner to the Governor of Virginia, in his report to the Legislature informs us that the Governor of Virginia was understood to say "that if, at any time, the military forces of Virginia should trespass, or temporarily occupy the soil of Maryland, it could only be justified by the pressing exigency of a military necessity, in defence and protection of her own soil from threatened or actual invasion, and certainly with no hostile intent towards the citizens of the State of Maryland, and that any and all damages to person or property consequent upon such occupation should be fully and liberally compensated;" therefore,

*Be it resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That*