

peace of Maryland. Your committee are not able to perceive how this result can be attained, without some communication with the Federal Authorities at Washington; and, in their judgment, it is due to the people of this State, whose lives and property are involved so deeply in the contingencies of the unhappy strife which has sundered the Republic, that some such communications should be forthwith opened by the General Assembly.

There are other and independent reasons which render such a course indispensable at this time, to the dignity and interests of the State. Two works of internal improvement, in which she is largely interested, have been seized, in whole or in part, by the general government for military purposes, to the exclusion of the rights of the State and her citizens. Upon one of those works (the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad,) the share of the passage moneys belonging specifically to the State and constituting an important portion of her revenue, has been diverted from its legitimate channels by the strong hand. A part of the soil of the State has been appropriated to the erection of fortifications, without even the form of asking her consent. Her seat of government has been converted into a military depot, to the exclusion of the representatives of her people. Martial law has been proclaimed, and the jurisdiction of her courts ousted, along the whole line of the road which has been dedicated to federal purposes through her territory. So far as this committee are advised, she has been dealt with, in these regards, as a conquered province, without any respect whatever to the relation which she bears to the Union, or to the constitutional and legal rights which that relation confers upon her citizens.

It is, therefore, the manifest duty of this Legislature to ascertain, by direct enquiry, through intelligent and accredited agents, the precise position which the general government has determined to occupy towards the State, and to seek, by all means consistent with official and personal self-respect, to modify the embarrassments and diminish the perils with which the existing state of things is fraught.

The committee would feign persuade themselves that such an application will be received with the respectful consideration it deserves, but, at all events, it will have placed the responsibilities of the future where they belong. They, therefore, respectfully recommend the adoption of the following joint resolution.

S. T. WALLIS,
EDWARD LONG,
JAMES T. BRISCOE,
J. H. GORDON,
G. W. GOLDSBOROUGH