

scribed by metes and bounds, part of which is our tight little State, saying that it was partly inhabited by savages having no knowledge of the Divine Being, the same to be called "Maryland"; and by his charter declared "the said province and the freeholders or inhabitants of the said colony or country shall not henceforth be held or reputed a member or part of the land of Virginia or of any other colony already transported or hereafter to be transported or to be depended on the same, but subject alone to the laws of Great Britain and Ireland."

I am not making apologies for the proceedings of previous sessions in which I participated, nor do I call a blame or point with pride. I simply restate a fact when I say that the State of Maryland is ill. It is known to all men that the revenues do not meet the expenditures, and, unless new sources are discovered, we shall be called upon as business men often are to curtail our appropriations, to limit our legislative expenses to the very last cent, and treat the tax dollar as it should be treated, as evidence of a sacred trust. The clouds of war are hanging low over the entire world. The rich are not spending extravagantly, the poor are suffering, and the inhabitants of those countries actually engaged in the struggle are subsisting on the barest necessities of life. We may at any moment be called upon to take sides, so let us put our house in order and prepare.

If this is to be a war assembly (and we all pray that God in his mercy will decree it otherwise), then we shall meet it as men, inheritors of freedom responsible for our trust, for we are trustees whether we will or not. As soon as we take our oath of office we subscribe to Article 6 of the Declaration of Rights, "that all persons invested with legislative or executive powers of government are trustees of the public, and, as such, accountable for their conduct." The last clause of this article is couched in strong language and has a meaning all its own—"the doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind."

Article 13. "That every man hath a right to petition the legislature for the redress of grievances in a peaceful and orderly manner." Take all the articles of the Declaration of Rights from 9 to 15 as amended, inclusive, and this No. 13 to me is the most important. "Every man" means that every man, woman and child in the whole State who has a grievance or an idea for amending, strengthening or preserving the laws is entitled by right to frame a petition, send it by mail or mes-