

and by her verdict through the ballot-box has defined her political status beyond controversy, and has placed herself in a prominent position among her sister loyal States; we therefore deem the present an appropriate time to adopt some legislative action, indicating the popular sentiment in reference to the subject of fugitive slaves. Some parts of Maryland, and particularly the western border counties, in close proximity to the grand army located along the Potomac river, have sustained severe losses in this description of property in consequence of escapes into the line of said army.

We believe this fratricidal contest in which we are now engaged is for the vindication of the Constitution and the restoration of the integrity of the Union. An adverse policy would, we also believe, not be in accordance with the dictates of military prudence or political expediency. A war waged for the extinction of slavery would lead to the annihilation of the Union Party in all the border slave States and add to the catalogue of deplorable events.

Resolved, therefore, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That a joint committee to consist of three members of the Senate and three of the House be appointed by the presiding officers of the respective Houses, and that said committee proceed to head quarters at Washington, and request an interview with Major General McClellan on this momentous question, and solicit the adoption of some plan to prevent the admission of fugitive slaves within the lines of the army.

Resolved, That the present position of Maryland entitles her to protection of property in slaves; also, that said committee, on their return, report to both Houses the result of their conference.

Which were read the first time, and,

On motion of Mr. Briscoe,

Referred to the committee on Federal Relations.

On motion of Mr. Eichelberger,

Ordered, That the Governor be respectfully requested to transmit to the Senate the returns of the election of those members of the Senate elected on the 6th day of November, 1861.

On motion of Mr. Goldsborough, of Dorchester,

Leave was granted the committee on Judicial Proceedings, to report a bill entitled, An act to ratify an amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The bill entitled, An act to authorize the commissioners