

field and in the still small voice with which He awakens and controls the consciences of men, an earnest inquiry into grievances, with an honest purpose of removing all causes of dissatisfaction, whilst our armies are on the way to vindicate the supremacy of the law, may be the appointed mean of leading our Southern brethren to contemplate the unnumbered miseries which protracted warfare must entail upon the whole country, and of recalling them to their allegiance to the Constitution, which is our common birthright.

2. Resolved, That the people of Maryland are prepared to accept any measures for pacification, which will preserve the Union in its integrity, and will secure to every State, and to the individual citizen, the full enjoyment of their constitutional rights. And this General Assembly hereby instructs the Senators from this State, and requests its Representatives, to unite in such acts of legislation by Congress as may be necessary to define more clearly, and to enforce most effectually, those rights.

3. Resolved, That in the opinion of this General Assembly, the distracted state of public opinion on the subject of slavery is the chief, if not the only, cause of our present dissensions; and that an honorable pacification is to be effected only by an adjustment of the question of slavery, on a basis which shall assume the existence of slavery as an inexorable fact and prefer practical expediency to the theories of extremists. Conscious of the inherent delicacy of the subject, and of the difficulty attendant on every endeavor to reconcile conflicting opinions which derive their importance rather from the vague anticipations of future evil than from the experience of a present grievance, this General Assembly, nevertheless, in the hope that it may thereby contribute, in some degree, to the consummation of a purpose so much to be desired, suggests—

I. The ratification, by the remaining States of the Union, of the amendment to the Constitution of the United States, proposed by Congress, by resolution approved March 2, 1861.

III. The restoration of the Missouri Compromise, and its extension to the Pacific Ocean. And, as a further assurance of our desire for peace, and to avoid all future pretexts for dissension, it is also suggested, that the same principle shall govern in all future acquisitions of territory by the United States. At the same time, the people of Maryland will consent that the power of acquisition shall be guarded so strictly, that it shall not be exercised without the concurrent action of the major part of the representatives of each of the two great interests of the country.

IV. This General Assembly witnesses, with equal regret and alarm, the efforts which are now making for the abolish-