

it, neither its prosperity, nor its greatness, nor its social system, and that civil wars and revolutions, while they affect all these, go farther, and generally fasten, before they are concluded, upon the organic law of the land itself; And whereas, we appear to have reached that crisis in the present revolution, when public opinion, reflected by the resolutions and debates in Congress, and accredited by the official report of the Secretary of War, seems drifting to such an untoward change; therefore,

1st. Be it resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That while we are ready and willing to pledge the resources and credit of the State to the General Government, in support of its authority, and for the restoration of the Union throughout all its original limits, with the equality of the States unimpaired, we are not willing, in any way, to overstep the ancient metes and bounds of the Constitution, nor inaugurate an insurrection, in order to quell a rebellion.

2d. That in times of revolutionary heat and excitement, the plea of a "military necessity," should be weighed well by a people anxious to preserve their liberties, lest by too frequent recurrence, those *in* power, conceive themselves the only judges of the occasion, when necessity is to be converted into law, and those *under* power, find too late, that the law is without either discrimination or mercy.

3d. That among those liberties, is the right which the States enjoy of regulating their own domestic economy, without interference or prevention from any quarter, and that all measures looking to the general emancipation of slaves anywhere, and especially in the loyal States of Kentucky and Maryland, are unjust, ungenerous, as well as unconstitutional, and that those who break the Constitution, let them come from what section they may, in any degree, whether of open and flagrant violation, or of delicate impingement under the shelter of an arbitrary necessity, should be broken by it.

4th. That Congress, in its last session, after committing the country to the policy defined by Mr. Crittenden's resolutions in the House, and the resolutions of Mr. Johnson in the Senate, has no right to recede now from the obligations of that pledge, and make the victims of its delusion the victims also of its sacrifice.

5th. That it is not the purpose of these resolutions, nor any part of them, to reflect upon the conduct of the President; that in all things, his policy has been eminently wise, statesmanlike, and worthy of the best days of the republic; nor to reflect upon the course of the administration; that hitherto it has been prudent, able and faithful in the discharge of its duties; but merely to utter a voice of solemn warning, that we drift not too far from our constitutional moorings, and be