

orders, did all that could have been expected from brave men and good citizens to preserve the public tranquility. But whether the hasty statement of the Executive be well or ill-founded in that particular, the determination of the State of Maryland, upon the question of furnishing her quota of militia to make war upon the Southern States, ought not, in the opinion of your Committee, to rest a moment longer upon any such collateral and accidental issue. It becomes the self respect of the State that she should speak out openly and decidedly upon the point, and the question should no longer be left dependent upon what may be hereafter regarded as "prudent" by the Executive. For this purpose, your Committee have prepared and reported a resolution, which is appended to this report, and the adoption of which they respectfully recommend.

It is but justice to the Executive of the State to observe, in this connection, that His Excellency appears to have been misled, in his action upon the requisition of the United States Government, by the two letters of the Secretary of War, dated April 17, in which that gentleman informs him that "the troops to be raised in Maryland will be needed for the defence of the Capital and of the public property in that State and neighborhood." "There is no intention," the Secretary adds, "of removing them beyond these points." In conformity with this information, the Proclamation of the Governor—of which he has not furnished a copy to the General Assembly, but which is matter of public notoriety— informs his fellow-citizens to the same effect, and holds out the idea that troops from this State may be furnished for the purposes indicated. Your Committee would be happy to persuade themselves that in suggesting the possibility of its being "prudent," at any time, for the Maryland quota to be furnished to the Government, His Excellency could only have contemplated their employment, in any contingency, for the limited purposes in question. But it does not become the House of Delegates to allow themselves to be deceived by any such intimations from the Government, as those which imposed upon the Governor. The Proclamation of Mr. Lincoln, under which the troops of Maryland have been called into the field, is directed (as has already been observed) against the seceded States, and none other. The militia were summoned to execute the laws and suppress unlawful combinations in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, and not in Maryland or the District of Columbia. The very requisition of the Secretary of War upon the Governor is in direct and absolute contradiction to the assurance contained in his letter. The one asks for troops to be used in the South, and not at the Federal Capital; the other declares that their employment, at the Federal Capital and not in the South, is the only purpose contemplated.

One of two things, therefore, is perfectly clear. Either the Government had called out troops under the pretence of needing