

them for one purpose, while intending to use them for another, or it contemplated employing a portion of them at Washington, as a guard and a reserve, but in aid, at the same time, of its offensive movements to the south of the Potomac. In the one case, it can have no claim upon our confidence; in the other, we should be false to ourselves and to free institutions, if we were to hesitate about refusing it our co-operation. Whatever destiny the people of Maryland may be able or willing to shape for themselves, now or hereafter, the Committee would be pained to believe it possible, that a single citizen of the State could be forced or persuaded to take part, directly or indirectly, in the slaughter and subjugation of our Southern brethren and the overthrow of Constitutional Government by usurpation and brute force. If the Government desires to put an end to all doubts as to the safety of the Capital, it can do so at a word, by putting an end to its own purposes of coercing the South.

What the Committee have already suggested in regard to the character and purposes of the conflict, which Mr. Lincoln has inaugurated, under the pretence of enforcing the laws, is so manifestly and indisputably corroborated by his course since the Legislature was convoked, that the Committee cannot discharge their duty without alluding to that course in this connection. Reference is especially had to the Proclamation of the 3rd of May, calling out over forty-two thousand additional volunteers, to serve in the militia for a period of three years, and increasing the regular force of the United States by an addition of nearly twenty-three thousand men to the army, and eighteen thousand seamen to the navy. The most unscrupulous advocate of the Administration and its policy would be compelled to shrink from the task of pointing out any legal or Constitutional authority of any sort for this unprecedented measure. The right of increasing the army and navy is one which belongs exclusively to Congress, and over which the President has no more Constitutional control than the humblest citizen. His right to call out the militia is expressly limited by the restriction that their use shall only continue "if necessary, until after the expiration of thirty days after the commencement of the then next session of Congress." (Act of 1795, sec. 2.) The Proclamation is therefore without any color whatever of right, and is as plain and bald a subversion of the letter and spirit of the Constitution and the laws, as was ever attempted by the military power, in any Government ostensibly free. The pretence of "existing exigencies" is but the shape in which military revolutions have always begun, since the prestige of free institutions has rendered it necessary, even for usurpers, to make a show of apology for overthrowing them.

If ever a triumphant illustration could be given of the wisdom of our fathers, in providing by the constitution, that the government should operate upon its individual citizens through the laws, and not upon the States by military coercion, it is to be