

Committee to ignore this state of things, because of the humiliation which comes with it. They feel it their duty to confess the inexorable logic of facts, and leave the future to be shaped by the people of Maryland, to whom, exclusively, that prerogative belongs, and who, doubtless, will exercise it in their own way and at their own good time.

This expression of the views of your Committee, at so much necessary length, leaves very obvious the recommendations which they ask leave to report, upon the two leading subjects submitted to their deliberation: the calling of a Sovereign Convention of the people, and the re-organization and arming of the militia of the State.

At the time when the Legislature was called together, there was certainly but little difference of opinion among its members, of all parties, as to the propriety of speedily adopting measures to secure both the objects referred to. Since that time, the rapid and extraordinary development of events, and of the warlike purposes of the Administration; the concentration of large bodies of troops in our midst and upon our borders, and the actual and threatened military occupation of the State, have naturally enough produced great changes of opinion and feeling among our citizens. The members of the Committee, judging from their own correspondence and that of their fellow members, of all shades of opinion, as well as from the memorials and other expressions of the public will, which have reached the House, have no hesitation in expressing their belief, that there is an almost unanimous feeling in the State against calling a Convention at the present time. The reasons for this conclusion are doubtless various, in different portions of the State, and the opinions of individuals as to the probable result of the deliberations of a Convention, at this moment, are of course very wide apart. To the Committee, the single fact of the military occupation of our soil by the Northern troops in the service of the Government, against the wishes of our people, and the solemn protest of the State Executive, is a sufficient and conclusive reason for postponing the subject, to a period when the Federal ban shall be no longer upon us. It does not become the dignity of the State of Maryland to attempt the performance of an act of sovereignty, absolute or qualified, at a moment when not only her sovereignty but her Federal equality is subordinated to the law of the drum-head. No election, held at such a time, and with such surroundings, could by possibility be fair or free. No result which could be reached by it would command the confidence or secure the willing obedience of the people. The Committee therefore feel it their duty to recommend the postponement of the subject for the present.

For reasons almost identical, the Committee take leave to report against the arming of the State, and the organization of our military defences at this time. If the holding of a Sovereign Convention were not regarded as a hostile movement by the Fed-