

eral Government, the re-establishment of the military force of the State, in a condition of present efficiency, certainly would be, however unjustly. It avails nothing to say that the arming and organization of a suitable militia, are declared by the Constitution of the United States to be "necessary to the security of a free State," and therefore especially guaranteed to us as peaceful and fundamental rights. The Constitution is silenced by the bayonets which surround us, and it is not worth while for us to fancy ourselves beneath its ægis. It would be criminal as well as foolish for us to shut our eyes to the fact that we will not be permitted to organize and arm our citizens, let our rights and the Constitution be what they may. The interview of our Commissioners with the President sets that point at rest. It is not easy for free men to realize such a state of things; but it is not our fault that we are helpless, nor our shame that our helplessness is abused.

The Committee respectfully recommend that no action be taken towards the re-organization of the militia at this time, or the doing of any act which might be construed into hostility to the Government, and that, if any purchase of arms be indispensable, it be confined, at the farthest, to such reasonable quantity as may be manufactured in our own State, for local purposes, and may aid in the equipment of the militia, when a plan for their proper enrollment and distribution shall be matured at some future day. The purchase of such a quantity can give no just ground for complaint in any quarter, as the slightest inquiry will show that the total disuse of the militia system, for many years past has left us almost wholly defenceless in many parts of the State, and renders some such arrangement indispensable as a measure of domestic police.

The Committee regard it as within their province further to suggest to this Honorable Body the propriety of adjourning over to some named day, as soon as its present and pressing duties are discharged. In their opinion, the exigencies of the present crisis do not permit a final adjournment, with any proper regard to the responsibilities and dangers which may, at any moment, be precipitated on the State.

Finally, the Committee respectfully submit to the House the following resolutions, and pray to be discharged from the further consideration of the matters before them.

S. T. WALLIS,
 J. H. GORDON,
 G. W. GOLDSBOROUGH,
 JAMES T. BRISCOE,
 BARNES COMPTON.