

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN REGARD TO THE RELATIONS OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

“WHEREAS, We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that amongst these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundations on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness;” and,

WHEREAS, The doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind; and,

WHEREAS, Standing armies are dangerous to liberty, and ought not to be raised or kept up without the consent of the Legislature; and,

WHEREAS, In all cases and at all times the military ought to be under strict subordination to, and control of, the civil power, and that the people of this State ought to have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police thereof; and that in all criminal prosecutions, every man hath a right to be informed of the accusation against him, to have a copy of the indictment or charge in due time (if required) to prepare for his defense, to be allowed counsel, to be confronted with the witnesses against him, to have process for his witnesses, to examine the witnesses for and against him on oath, and to a speedy trial by an impartial jury, without whose unanimous consent he ought not to be found guilty; and,

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States declares that Congress shall have power to declare war, to raise and support armies; that “the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it,” nor then unless by Congress. “That a well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed;” that “the right of the people to be secure in their