

military reservation in favor of such violation. They meant what they said, and thus and there stands the Constitution, as they made it—and as others have broken it!

Our own immediate ancestors, when they framed the Constitution of Maryland in 1776, embodied in their Declaration of Rights two principles, from which they never departed nor allowed departure, and which they transmitted to us, for equal reverence and observance. They are the 2d and 27th Articles of the Declaration which is prefixed to our existing Constitution, and they were part of the fundamental law of the State when she adopted the Constitution of the Union. Their language is as follows:

*“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 cases and at all times, the military ought to be under strict subordination to, and control of, the civil power.”*

With this authoritative announcement before us, of rights which the citizens of Maryland have at no time surrendered, we can never consent to recognize, in the pretext of “military necessity,” anything but an aggravation of the wrong it is meant to justify. Neither can we fail, without disgrace, to denounce as usurpation and outrage, the overthrow of our domestic authorities and institutions, the assumption of our internal government, and the oppression of our citizens—by the Executive, the Congress, and the army of the United States.

The experience of this General Assembly and of the Memorialists before us, must admonish us, the Committee believe, that any application for redress to the Federal Government, in any of its departments, is idle and hopeless now. There is but one recourse left to us, and that is to appeal to the public opinion and sense of right of the whole country: to call upon free and true men, everywhere, in our own State and in our sister States, to lift their voices for the rescue of the Constitution, before it shall have gone down into the vortex, whose narrowing and rapid circles have already swept its great bulwarks from around the rights of the people of Maryland. It is not, we repeat, a question of Union or Disunion. It is a question of Constitution or no Constitution: a question of Freedom or no Freedom. There can be no trust and no safety, for any people, in arbitrary power. It is progressive, untiring, unresting. It never halts or looks backward. Call it by what holy name you will: sanctify it by what pretexts or purposes of patriotism you may—under any flag, in any cause, anywhere and everywhere, it is the foe of human right, and by the law of its being is inca-