

or allegiance to any public authority or power other than their own State government and the government of the United States; to their own State government within the sphere of its reserved rights—to the government of the United States within the limits of its delegated authority; that every infraction of the rights of the States and every breach of the Constitution of the United States, is an unwarrantable assumption of power, and that the claim of right to violate either, on the plea of military necessity, is an artful device by persons in authority for the subversion of our form of government and the establishment of another in its stead.

6. That in the opinion of this General Assembly and of a majority of the people of the State, this war ought never to have been made: that it is the result of wickedness on both sides—a perversely obstinate adherence to a fanatical party platform by the administration at Washington, which was seized upon by the people of the States in revolt and made the pretext for a resort to arms, which might and should have been averted by the adoption of the recommendations of the Peace Conference, or taking the sense of the people on certain propositions of constitutional amendment, known as the Crittenden Compromise; that its prosecution for nearly two years has resulted in no good, but in immense loss of treasure and life, and has intensified the feeling of hostility and rendered our questions of difference vastly more complicated and difficult of adjustment.

7. That in the judgment of this Legislature and a large majority of the people of Delaware, the time has arrived for making an effort other than by arms to end this dreadful war; that such effort should be made through the agency of an armistice or cessation of hostilities, and the appointment of delegates from all the States to a National Convention to devise and mature a plan for the settlement of our difficulties, which, whilst it secures the integrity of the Union, shall place the slavery question beyond the reach of fanatical agitators or unreasonable propagandists, and re-establish our Federal Union, by the exercise of generous and magnanimous sentiments, upon a basis as enduring as the continent on which we live.