

8. That we are ready to co-operate with the Legislatures of the other States in creating such convention by the appointment of Delegates, and that this Legislature will not adjourn *sine die*, whilst the hope of such a convention remains.

9. That we do most emphatically condemn, and in the name and on behalf of the people of Delaware, protest against the Proclamation of Emancipation issued by the President on the 1st instant, as a flagrant attempt to exercise absolute power under the plea of military necessity; that neither as President nor as Commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy does any such power as the Proclamation asserts reside with the Chief Executive, nor is it lodged elsewhere. Slavery is a legal relation in many of the States, and was so in all of them except one, when the Constitution of the United States was formed, and property in slaves is as much the subject of constitutional protection as property in houses and lands. Just so far in the course of actual military operations as it may be necessary to seize private property for public uses, the Commander-in-chief has power in that character to make such seizure, but just so soon as the necessity for the use of such property ceases, it reverts absolutely to its owner at the time of the seizure. Viewing the foregoing as sound propositions of law, we regard the Proclamation aforesaid as powerless to abolish slavery, but as pregnant with mischief to the cause of the Union and an outrage to our fellow citizens of the other slave States. The assumption that the President of the United States can, by proclamation, abolish the relation of master and slave, and deprive the former of property, amounting under its intended operation to thousands of millions of dollars, is too monstrous to be honestly entertained by a mind unbiassed by prejudice or fanaticism.

10. That this Legislature and a large majority of the people of this State condemn, as gross violations of the Federal Constitution, the attempt on the part of the Executive to control the popular branch of Congress by fraudulent military elections of Representatives, the appointment of military Governors, and the division of a sovereign State without the consent of the people.