

Reform of the Constitution, having been held forth by the recusant Electors as their ostensible object in the course of conduct pursued by them and their abettors, our views upon that subject are perhaps justly and properly expected. In an address to the people of the State, the recusant Electors undertook to defend their attempt to subvert the Constitution by Revolutionary means, upon the unfounded assumption that all hope of a adequate amendment, or, in the cant, various meaning, and undefined phrase of the day — Reform, by the Constitutional method, are vain and illusory, and they quoted, with a view to support their assumption of right to pursue the course they had adopted and recommended to their co-adjutors, from our Bill of Rights, the unquestionable truth that whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may and ought to, reform the old or establish a new government. But they omitted all attempt to show that these circumstances had occurred, or, that they were the people, or even the Representatives of any part of them, for such a purpose.

What are the ends of government? The security of life, liberty and property, may be the brief but comprehensive answer, and we state with honest pride, and in the fullest confidence, that in no community have these ends been more effectually provided for, or more amply enjoyed, and that an instance cannot be cited from our history, under the Constitution, in which any of them have been violated, by error of Law. When public liberty is manifestly endangered? As it is notoriously felt by all, so it needs no argument to prove, that public liberty has never been endangered, or even threatened, here, save by the rash or misguided men, and their abettors, whose conduct is now under review. But, were it otherwise, and had these events occurred, can it be said, with the least semblance of truth, that all other means of redress "have been tried and found ineffectual?" No other Constitution or form of government has provided more amply for its amendment, or a mode more ready, easy, safe and judicious for that purpose, than ours, nor has there ever occurred, since its adoption, a time when the assumption or assertion that there is no hope of reform, under it, was so evidently untrue, as at the present.

In the lapse of sixty years, the position of Society has materially varied, so that the provisions of the Constitution are less perfect in theory, and less adapted to ideas of right, and to the present condition, wishes and interests of the people, than at the time of its establishment. There are several parts of the instrument which, it is generally believed, might be beneficially changed. The establishment of a different basis and apportionment of representation is required by a just regard to the rights, interests and wishes of the people of the more populous sections of the State, and there is every reason to believe that such a change, in this respect, as right to satisfy the large and populous sections, can and will be obtained, in the Constitutional manner, and with
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