

greatly enhanced by its being under the jurisdiction of Congress and being the seat of the National Government.

The acquiescence of the people of Maryland then, has hitherto been, and while it continues, will be, a matter of choice and expediency, and may depend upon a continuance of the causes which produced it. There is no statute of limitation in such a case. An act unconstitutional in its commencement, time cannot render constitutional. Whenever the causes which have induced the acquiescence of Maryland shall cease to exist, and if the madness of Abolition, contrary to all human expectation, should get the control of Congress, and attempt to introduce its insane projects into that portion of Maryland supposed to be ceded, then all these interesting questions will come up for solemn and deliberate determination, and will be tried only by the eternal principles of right and justice.

The committee deeply regret the languishing condition of that portion of the District of Columbia, from which the memorial comes. The memorial, and the vote of the people, shew a very great degree of dissatisfaction under their present jurisdiction. But the memorialists themselves, seem to consider the supposed cession, to be binding, and their object is to obtain a *retrocession* to this State. Entertaining this opinion, it would seem, the memorialists should consult Congress, to know what views of the matter are entertained in that quarter, and whether the retrocession contemplated by them, will meet the approbation of Congress. If Congress shall signify its willingness to yield the jurisdiction it has hitherto exercised, upon satisfactory terms, it is presumed there will be no reluctance upon the part of Maryland to extend again her governmental jurisdiction over the territory.

In this stage of the matter, the committee recommend no action on the part of this General Assembly, but recommend the adoption of this report, and a submission of all the interesting and important questions arising out of this subject, to the deliberate consideration of the people of this State, in order that their judgement may be thoroughly informed, and that they may be prepared to act, as future exigency may require.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

BENJAMIN J. JONES, Chairman.