

and cherished, in the bosoms of a majority of the community, a sufficient sense of their fatal tendency and a devotion to our laws and institutions, which shall induce them promptly to repress all similar attempts and to aid in visiting the judgments of the law upon all who shall aim such fatal blows at the nature and genius of our happy form of government. Although all these strong motives exist to induce the citizens every where to restrain and check all such excesses, and although we doubt not they will be generally felt and acknowledged, yet we have seen they are not always sufficient to bring the laws of peace and good order promptly into action upon such emergency. Hope is too apt to blind us to the extent or fearful nature of remote dangers, and each one, busied about his own concerns and taking care of his individual interests, becomes, measurably, or for the time, forgetful of the great stake he holds in the general welfare, and leaves it to be guarded and preserved by others; and these feelings actuating all, all alike leave the general good to be protected by others; while the lawless and licentious are permitted to go forward in their work of violence and destruction in the most densely populated districts. As calculated in some measure to correct this evil and bring in aid of the obligations of public duty, the more readily perceived and more awakening motives of private interest, we recommend to your consideration the propriety of passing a law, rendering it obligatory upon the inhabitants of each county, city or incorporated town within which a mob or riot shall hereafter take place, to remunerate from their public purse all individual sufferers to the full amount of their loss or injury sustained from such mob or riot, and we would also respectfully suggest a careful revisal of the criminal laws applicable to such cases and the passage of such new enactments, as to your wisdom shall seem best calculated effectually to insure the punishments of all similar offenders in future.

Since the adjournment of the late legislature, the country has been much and deeply agitated by the machinations of sundry misguided and wickedly disposed citizens, residing chiefly in the Northern and Eastern States of the Union, who, associating themselves with certain unprincipled foreign emissaries, have sought, and it is believed, are still seeking by every means within their power, to destroy the peace, happiness and