

Maryland's Secession Convention

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that committee. The Resolutions were read by the Secretary, and the Address by the Hon. E. Louis Lowe. They were received with acclamation, and were unanimously adopted by the Convention, as follows:

THE RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS it is the opinion of this meeting that in the present alarming crisis in the history of our country, it is desirable that the State of Maryland should be represented by judicious, intelligent and patriotic agents, fully authorized to confer and act with our sister States of the South, and particularly with the State of Virginia.

And whereas such authority can be conferred solely by a convention of the people of the State:

And whereas, in the opinion of this meeting, the Legislature not being in session, a full and fair expression of the popular will is most likely to be heard through a convention called by the recommendation of the executive.

And whereas it is alleged that the Governor now has it in contemplation to recommend, by proclamation, such a movement, in the event of a failure by the Peace Conference and Congress to effect any satisfactory solution of the vexed questions now agitating the country:

Be it therefore resolved, That we shall approve such a proceeding on the part of the Governor, and add the voice of this convention to urge the voters of this State to regard such proclamation. And with a view to allow time for the action of the Governor in the matter, this convention will adjourn until the twelfth day of March next, unless intermediately the State of Virginia should, by her Sovereign Convention, secede from the Union; in which event, and in case the Governor of the State shall not have then called a Sovereign Convention of the people of this State, this convention shall at once reassemble at the call of the President, with a view of recommending to the people of the State the election of delegates to such a Sovereign Convention.

Resolved further, as the sense of this convention, That the secession of the seven slaveholding States from the Federal Union was induced by the aggression of the non-slaveholding States, in violation of the constitution of the United States.

Resolved further, That the moral and material interests and the geographical position of the State demand that it should act with Virginia in this crisis, co-operating with that State in all honorable efforts to maintain and defend the constitutional rights of its citizens in the Union, and failing in that, to associate with her in confederation with our sister States of the South.

Resolved further, That the honor of this State requires that it should not permit its soil to be made a highway for federal troops, sent to make war upon our sister States of the South; and it is the opinion of this convention that an attempt on the part of the federal government to coerce the States which have seceded would necessarily result in civil war and the destruction of the government itself.

THE ADDRESS.

To the People of Maryland:

This Convention has been convened under extraordinary circumstances, and we therefore deem it proper to state briefly the causes of its convocation, and the position which the Southern rights men of Maryland have held from the beginning of our unhappy national difficulties, and which they now hold.

The Southern rights men of Maryland have been most persistently charged with being secessionists and disunionists.

Addresses and Resolutions Adopted at the Meeting of the Southern Rights Convention of Maryland, Held in the Universalist Church in the City of Baltimore, February 18th and 10th, 1861. 1861. Baltimore: J.B. Rose & Co. p. 4.