msa_sc2901_scm1621-0030 copyright Maryland State Archives

The Kent News.

PLUMMER & USILTON, . . Editors.

Chestertown:

Saturday Morning, Jan. 12, 1861.

The County Meeting.

In pursuance of notice, a large number of the voters of Kent county, without respect to party, assembled at the Court House on Tuesday last, to consider and deliberate calmly upon the calamitous condition of our country, and to suggest, if practicable, some feasible mode of allaying excitement, and preserving the Government and the Union. The roads were very heavy, and the morning inauspicious, but the occasion was one of such extraordinary interest, rising so far above the considerations of party, that upwards of four hundred persons attended. The Court room would not accommodate the assemblage, although every seat and avenue were literally crowded, and many could not gain admittance. The address of the President, on taking his seat, was affecting and patriotic—near seventy-three years of age, and then laboring under debility, he had come from his home at the risk of his health, to take part in proceedings, designed to perpetuate this glorious Union, and preserve it from destruction. The preamble and resolutions, prepared in his sick chamber, he read for the consideration of the meeting. The first five were adopted by acclamation, but the sixth being read, it was soon evident that there was an honest difference of opinion upon the question of convening the Legislature. As an expression of the views of those who deemed such a call inexpedient, and of their confidence in the wisdom, discretion and prudence of the Governor, that when the proper time arrived, if it arrived at all, it would be convened, Geo. Vickers, Esq., offered as a substitute for the sixth resolution, the one found in the proceedings, in another column. That resolution was advocated by Dr. Wm. W. Valk, and also by Mr. Vickers, earnestly but respectfully, the latter reading portions of Gov. Hicks' address to the people of the State, and commenting upon it.—The substitute was opposed and the original resolution advocated as zealously by J. B. Ricaud, R. W. Ringgold, P. L. Wickes and J. A. Wickes, Esqs. The substitute was adopted by a vote of 197 to 87—a number being outside and in the ante-rooms not voting. The seventh resolution submitted by the chair was of course not voted upon, but was withdrawn, because it was dependent upon the sixth. We believe that the relative vote throughout the county would have been the same, if every voter had been present. The meeting was one of the most spirited we ever attended, and the discussions were courteous and interesting. Attachment to the Union, seemed to be the prevailing sentiment,—great enthusiasm was evinced whenever the Constitution, the Union, and the Stars and Stripes were alluded to. There may be some disloyalty in our county, but the great predominating feeling of our people is fidelity to, and determination to sustain, the Constitution, although they will, with equal firmness and pertinacity, maintain and defend our rights under it. The advice of the Father of his Country, and his solemn injunctions, are not lost upon our people, who venerate the name and cherish the memory, the virtues, the services, and fame of the first and greatest of our country. He fought to procure our liberties and Independence. He aided to establish the present form of government—sanctioned it by his eight years' service as its chief, and commended it in his farewell address to the hearts and gallantry of his countrymen. He warned them against every attempt to impair it, and denounced the hand that would attempt to destroy it. May Maryland never contribute by word or deed, to enervate or demolish the beautiful fabric, but MAY IT BE PERPETUAL!

☞ The correspondence between President Buchanan and the South Carolina Commissioners has been published. It appears that the President gave the Commissioners no official recognition, that he declined to treat with them in relation to the secession of South Carolina, though willing to submit their propositions to Congress, and that his position in relation to the reinforcement of the Charleston Forts has been somewhat misrepresented. The last communication from the Commissioners was returned by the President with the comment that it was not a proper communication to be addressed to him; in it the Commissioners directly impugn the good faith of the President and charge him with provoking a war with South Carolina.

☞ Hon. Jacob Thompson, Secretary of the Interior, resigned on Tuesday.—The cause is said to be the despatch of the Star of the West from New York with U. S. troops to reinforce Major Anderson at Fort Sumter.

For the Kent News.

Revolution.

Messrs. Editors:—I have heard a report, that a secret conclave in Baltimore city, self constituted, have selected persons from the different counties, (twice the number of delegates and Senators for each) to meet in that city to determine upon a Convention! They were unwilling to trust the Executive, or the people in mass meetings, but have assumed the right to initiate a proceeding, which if attempted to be carried out, will be revolutionary in its character. Disunion may be at the bottom, and a secret intention of some to hurl the State of Maryland into antagonism to the Government. Under a specious garb of professed patriotism, there may lurk a design to break up the government. The Cat is at the bottom of the meal tub! We hope the rumor is unfounded, and that nothing may be done inconsistent with duty and patriotism. All consultations to promote peace, union and harmony, are proper and should be encouraged;—but, if there be any other purpose, it is illegal and should be discountenanced.

A UNION PATRIOT.

AFFAIRS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.—A gentleman from Columbia, S. C., who has just arrived at his home in Washington city, states that a sad and sorrowful state of things prevail there. Business and work of all kinds are in a paralyzed condition owing to the great excitement existing among the people about the approaching inauguration of what they term a hostile government. The talk of war has caused everything else to be suspended. He represents the people as excited almost to derangement, and relates a case where a fellow mechanic of his has been completely crazed and made an inmate of a lunatic asylum by the warlike demonstrations around him. Nearly every mechanic employed on the capitol of the State has left, and those remaining behind will follow in a few days. Other mechanics employed elsewhere will soon take their departure, and unless times shall soon improve, many of the native mechanics and laboring force of the State will seek employment in other States.

We have reports from Charleston by travellers which indicate the existence of much distress there. The troops who have volunteered and presented themselves for service, are camped in unhealthy locations, and in consequence of rain, swamps and miasma, are suffering from disease.—No vessels loading, no business doing, women weeping, and men overcome by sickness, and the city in the hands of a mob, is the bulletin travellers present of the condition of things at the present time in Charleston.

This is truly a sorrowful state of things. We are Southerners in all our feelings and affections, and, of course, warmly sympathise with our brethren of those States where the disunion fever is raging. But, the question is, will they not soon find that they are paying very dearly for their whistle. This thing of withdrawing from the Union and setting up an independent government is a very costly operation, and if it be followed by the hostile operations of the general government against these rebellious States, the loss in the end will be almost incalculable, and fall with a heavy hand upon every citizen of the State, from the highest to the lowest. We hope that no hostile steps will be taken against such States, but that the general government will simply act in self defence. It will be best to trust to the sober second thought of the people for setting their political leaders right and teaching them the folly and madness of undertaking to right their wrongs by a resort to secession.

Meetings in Cecil County.

At Mass Meetings held at Elk Neck and at Port Deposit, Cecil county, last week, resolutions were adopted recognizing the critical condition of the country, counseling moderation, denouncing the Personal Liberty bills as unconstitutional, applauding Major Anderson, and endorsing the course of Gov. Hicks. The Cecil Whig says that the resolutions truthfully reflect the sentiments of nineteen-twentieths of the people of that county.

MOVEMENTS OF THE SOUTHERN STATES.—The present will be a busy and important month in the Southern States:

Jan. 7. Virginia Legislature met.
" 7. Alabama Convention.
" 7. Mississippi Convention.
" 7. Louisiana election for Convention.
" 7. Tennessee Legislature met.
" 8. Texas election for Convention.
" 16. Georgia Convention.
" 17. Kentucky Legislature meets.
" 33. Louisiana Convention.
" 28. Texas Convention.

U. S. SENATOR.—On the 7th inst. the Republicans of the Legislature of Pennsylvania met in causes, and on the sixth ballot nominated Edgar Cowan, of Westmoreland, as the successor of Mr. Bigler in the Senate of the United States.

☞ Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, of Maine, the Vice President elect of the U. States, resigned his seat in the Senate on Monday.

On the 9th inst. the legislature of Maine elected Ex-Governor Morrill as U. S. Senator to succeed Vice-President Hamlin.

Secession of Mississippi & Alabama.

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 9.—The convention of this State passed the ordinance of secession by a vote of 84 to 15.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 9.—A committee of thirteen was appointed yesterday to prepare an ordinace of secession.

COUNTY MEETING.

AT a meeting of the citizens generally of Kent County, on Tuesday the 8th inst., convened at the Court House in pursuance of previous notice, to take into consideration the present distracted condition of our country, on motion

The Hon. JUDGE CHAMBERS was appointed President; Simon Wickes, Daniel Haines, James Spear, John M. Comegys, and Thomas D. Burgess, Vice Presidents; and David Arthur, J. P. Ireland, and Wm. Conyer, were appointed Secretaries.

The President, upon taking the chair, returned his thanks for the expression of the confidence of his fellow-citizens; referred to the present and past condition of the country; the great blessings conferred upon the Union under the Federal Constitution; the duty and obligation of all good citizens, both North and South, to observe and fulfil its provisions in all its parts, and urged upon all present to come up to the crisis in a spirit of compromise and as patriots free from all party ties, to make one effort to restore harmony and peace, and continue to us the blessings of a free and united government. He concluded by presenting to the consideration of the meeting the following resolutions, which were read, considered, and separately adopted with great unanimity, with the exception of the sixth and seventh resolutions.

When the sixth resolution of the series was submitted to the meeting, George Vickers, Esq., presented as a substitute the following:

Resolved, That as citizens of Maryland we are proud of the eminently conservative and dignified position our State has maintained since the commencement of the unfortunate controversy that now distracts our country, and that we have an abiding faith that when the time shall arrive for Maryland to speak, she will show to the world that she understands her rights and knows how to maintain them.

After a full and very animated debate, the substitute was adopted by a large majority. On the adoption of the substitute the seventh of the series was of course withdrawn. The following are the resolutions submitted by the President, and which, with the exception of the 6th and 7th, were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, in the existing political crisis, threatening as it does the whole fabric of our Government with utter destruction and the substitution of anarchy and civil discord, and which saddens the heart of every patriot, our State has its own *peculiar* conditions and relations, demanding the special attention of its citizens and the careful guardianship of those who control its action; and whereas, we are convinced that while every State in the Union, by the breaking up of the Government, will be plunged into an abyss of suffering and wretchedness most terrible in degree, yet it is obvious that the geographical, political, and social relations of our State necessarily consign us to the very lowest depths in that abyss, and in an especial manner demand consummate prudence and discretion to be observed by those who may be selected to pilot us through the raging storm which so awfully blackens the political horizon—therefore

Resolved, 1. That in common with our fellow-citizens in other parts of the State, we feel the deepest devotion to the Constitution and the Union, the work of the wisest and best of men that ever ruled a nation, and regard the Union as the Father of his Country did, "the palladium of our political safety and prosperity; as the main pillar in the edifice of our real independence, the support of our tranquility at home, our character and our peace abroad, our safety, and prosperity, and that very liberty we so highly prize."

Resolved, 2. That great and manifold as are the blessings enjoyed under the Constitution and the Union, it is yet impossible that they can continue, unless the stipulations in virtue of which they were entered into, be observed.

Resolved, 3. That the multiplied instances of resistance to the constitutional rights of slaveholders, by the vilest abuse in the newspapers, pamphlets, lecture rooms and pulpits, by the open and high-handed opposition and arrest of the mandates of judicial authority, and the violent seizure of our property by mobs, in large cities, unopposed in inflicting personal violence on our citizens, whose only crime consisted in reclaiming their property—and in some cases murderously causing their death; and above all, in the enactment by several State Legislatures of provisions designed to prevent the successful pursuit of our property, constitute undeniable breaches of those constitutional stipulations.

Resolved, 4. That with a deep conviction that the persevering continuance of these instances of infraction must of necessity result in all the horrors of a ruptured Union, sectional hatred, and civil war, we are yet unwilling to hasten this dreadful catastrophe, and prefer to exhaust every conceivable means of redress, believing that the fearful and certain evils of separation ought to be avoided so long as a lingering effort at conciliation remains to be made.

Resolved, 5. That in the misguided and heated passion of the extreme South, and the uninformed fanaticism of a large proportion of the North, we are persuaded that the best prospect for healing existing animosities, and arranging a practical settlement of disturbing questions, is to be found in a Convention of the Border States, where prudent, intelligent men, selected at a time when a slight beginning of the mischiefs we are to suffer has set men to think because they feel, could calmly counsel together and come to the common conclusion that a fair and faithful execution of all constitutional obligations in their true and honest spirit, is all that is necessary to perpetuate our glorious Union—and is alike due to the justice of our claims, to the pledges they have made, and to the peace and prosperity of our happy country.

Resolved, 6. That in our opinion the time has arrived when Maryland should actively promote such an effort, and to this end we recommend a call of the Legislature by the Governor, so soon as he shall receive satisfactory assurances that at an extra session, the Legislature will do nothing more than simply provide for the meeting of a Convention, which shall have power to protect and provide for the interests of the State.

Resolved, 7. That we deem it proper to restrict the Legislature from taking any step, or suggesting any opinions or course of proceeding, other than authorizing a Convention, solely because its members were elected for other and far different objects, and were elected on party grounds, to represent the party views of those by whom they were respectively elected, and that in electing a Convention, the people of the State would of course abandon all party considerations, and act as Marylanders.

Resolved, 8. That we cordially approve of the propositions introduced into the United States Senate by Mr. Crittenden, and earnestly recommend to our members in Congress from Maryland to advocate them, believing that if adopted in Congress, they will be ratified in the States, and permanently allay all sectional strife, and re-establish the relations of peace and good will throughout our whole country.

It was finally on motion Resolved, that the proceedings be published in the Kent News and the Kent Conservator, and the meeting thereupon adjourned.

E. F. CHAMBERS, Prest.

SIMON WICKES, DANIEL HAINES, JAMES SPEAR, J. M. COMEGYS, T. D. BURGESS, } Vice Pres'ts.

DAVID ARTHUR, J. P. IRELAND, WILLIAM CONYER, } Sec'ys.

From Washington.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSITIONS FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE NATIONAL TROUBLES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The Committee on the part of the Border States held their second meeting last night and adopted the following propositions: Recommending the repeal of all the Personal Liberty bills; an efficient amendment of the Fugitive Slave law preventing kidnapping; equalizing the commissions, fees, &c.; that the Constitution be so amended as to prohibit any interference with slavery in any of the States; that Congress shall not abolish slavery in the dock-yards, etc., nor in the District of Columbia, without the consent of the inhabitants, nor without compensation; that Congress shall not interfere with the inter-slave trade; that there shall be a perpetual prohibition of the African slave trade; that the line of 36°40′ shall be run through all the existing Territories of the U. States, and in all North of that line slavery shall be prohibited, while South of the line neither Congress nor the Territorial Legislature shall hereafter pass any law abolishing or prohibiting, or in any manner interfering with African slavery; and when any Territory containing sufficient population for one member in any sixty thousand square miles, shall apply for admission as a State, it shall be admitted with or without slavery, as its constitution may determine.

The committee represented at its meeting Maryland, Virginia, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Delaware, Arkansas, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The House Committee of Thirty-Three to-day had under consideration H. Winter Davis' amendment to the Fugitive Slave Law. An amendment offered by Mr. Washburn, of Wisconsin, guaranteeing a trial by jury in the State where the fugitive was seized, was rejected by a vote of eight against ten. Mr Davis' amendment was then adopted, guaranteeing a trial by jury in the State from which the fugitive escaped.

On Monday, Mr. Adrian, democrat, introduced into the House the following resolution, which was adopted by a vote of 124 ayes to 56 nays:

Resolved, that we fully approve of the bold and patriotic action of Major Anderson in withdrawing from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter, and of the determination of the President to sustain him in his present position, and that we will support the President by all Constitutional means to enforce the laws and preserve the Union.

The House adjourned over till Wednesday, Tuesday being the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans.

No Hope of a Compromise by Congress.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—This has been the gloomiest day experienced since Congress assembled. The majority of the committee of thirty-three adopted compromise resolutions, Mr. Davis, of Md., concurring, but they were repudiated by the southern men of the committee.

Conservative men now abandon all hope of any settlement of the question by Congress, and fall back, as the last hope, upon the action of the people in their State capacity.

It is said that Senator Pearce has written a letter to a gentleman in Western Maryland, in which he states that the time has now arrived when the Legislature should be convened for the purpose of calling a State Convention.

EX-GOVERNOR WISE.—This gentleman has written another letter on the crisis.—The leading positions which he takes are: An immediate call of a State Convention, and the prompt resumption by the Convention of all such powers as were hitherto delegated to the General Government as may be necessary to State protection, especially the possession of the forts, etc. That having been done, the State shall not declare herself out of the Union, but suspend all relations with offending States until they shall accede to such an ultimatum as the Convention may submit.

Important Message of the President.

CONGRESS CALLED ON FOR RELIEF.

The President of the United States transmitted to Congress on Wednesday an important Message on the secession troubles, from which we extract the following paragraphs:

In my annual message I expressed the conviction, which I have long deliberately held, and which recent reflection has only tended to deepen and confirm, that no State has a right by its own act to secede from the Union or to throw off its federal obligations at pleasure. I also declared my opinion to be that even if that right existed, and should be exercised by any State of the confederacy, the executive department of this government had no authority under the constitution to recognize its validity, by acknowledging the independence of such State.

This left me no other alternative, as chief executive officer under the constitution, but to collect the public revenues and to protect the public property, so far as this might be practicable under existing laws. This is still my purpose. My province is to execute and not to make laws. It belongs to Congress exclusively to repeal, to modify, or to enlarge their provisions to meet exigencies as they may occur. I possess no dispensing power. I certainly had no right to make aggressive war upon any State, and I am perfectly satisfied that the constitution has wisely withheld that power even from Congress.

But the right and duty to use military force defensively against those who resist the federal officers in the execution of their legal functions, and against those who assail the property of the federal government, is clear and undeniable. But a dangerous and hostile attitude of States towards each other has already far transcended and cast in the shade the ordinary executive duties already provided for by law, and has assumed such vast and alarming proportions as to place the subject entirely above and beyond executive control.

The fact cannot be disguised that we are in the midst of a great revolution in all its various bearings. Therefore I commend the question to Congress as the only human tribunal, under Providence, possessing power to meet the existing emergency. To them exclusively belongs the power to declare war or to authorize the employment of military force in all cases contemplated by the constitution; and they alone possess power to remove grievances which might lead to war, and to secure peace and union to this distracted country. On them, and on them alone, rests the responsibility.

The greatest aggravation of the evil, and that which would place us in a most unfavorable light, both before the world and posterity, is, as I am firmly convinced, that the secession movement has been chiefly based upon a misapprehension at the South of the sentiments of the majority in several of the northern States. Let the question be transferred from political assemblies to the ballot-box, and the people themselves would speedily redress all serious grievances which the South have suffered. But in Heaven's name let trial be made before we plunge into armed conflict upon mere assumption that there is no other alternative. Time is a great conservative power.

Let us pause at this momentous point and afford the people, both North and South, an opportunity for reflection. Would that South Carolina had been convinced of this truth before her precipitate action. Therefore I appeal through you to the people of the country to declare in their might that the Union must and shall be preserved by all constitutional means. I most earnestly recommend that you devote yourselves exclusively to the question how this can be accomplished in peace. All other questions, when compared to this, sink into insignificance. The present is no time for palliations, action, prompt action, is required. A delay in Congress to prescribe or to recommend distinct and practical propositions for conciliation may drive us to a point from which it will be almost impossible to recede.

Common ground, on which conciliation and harmony can be produced, is surely not unattainable. Propositions to compromise by letting the North have the exclusive control of territory above a certain line, and to give southern insititutions protection below that line, ought to receive universal approbation. In itself, indeed, it may not be entirely satisfactory, but when the alternative is between reasonable concession on both sides and the destruction of the Union, it is an imputation upon the patriotism of Congress to assert that members will hesitate for a moment.

Visit to Fort Sumter.

Major Anderson's brother, who was dispatched by the government to visit Major Anderson some days ago, has returned to Washington. Immediately after his return, it is stated he called upon the President and Gen. Scott, and reported to them the condition of affairs at Fort Sumter.—He says his brother has all the munitions and supplies that are required for the present, and can defend himself against the entire South. His brother, he says, does not apprehend any serious trouble in case of an attack. He does not believe that they will make any demonstration for some time. In regard to reinforcements, the government, he says, can do as they think proper. There is no doubt he desires them, although he has made no such demand.—He sent a confidential communication to General Scott. His brother states that he was not aware when he left that reinforcements had been sent.

SOUTH CAROLINIANS IN THE FEDERAL SERVICE.—The following officers in the U. S. army are South Carolinians: Majors 4, brevet major 1, brevet colonel 1, captains 11, 1st lieutenants 8, 2d lieutenants 3.—In the navy there are 6 commanders, 3 captains, 13 lieutenants, 2 surgeons, 1 purser, 3 masters, 4 midshipmen, and 1 engineer.

Highly Important from Charleston.

THE FIRST BLOW STRUCK.

Steamer Star of the West fired into.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 9.—The steamer Star of the West, with troops to reinforce Fort Sumter, arrived off Charleston Bar at an early hour this morning; she attempted to enter the harbor with the American flag flying, when a brisk fire was opened upon her by the garrison stationed at the lighthouse on Morris' Island.

The guns of Fort Moultrie on the other side also opened on her, when the steamer put about and went to sea again. We have not been able to learn whether the steamer or any person on board was injured. The belief is that no injury was sustained either by the boat or those on board.

Major Anderson, from Fort Sumter, did not respond.

Flag of Truce from Fort Sumter.

Whilst the excitement was at its height a boat was observed to leave Fort Sumter with an officer bearing a flag of truce and approach the city. The officer proved to be Lieutenant Hall, who proceeded to the quarters of the Governor, followed by an immense concourse of citizens. He was in secret communication with the Governor and council for about two hours, when he was sent in a carriage to the wharf, and returned to Fort Sumter.

The object of the mission has not transpired, though it is stated on high authority that the message of Major Anderson related to the firing into the steamer Star of the West, and that it is of a most threatening character.

Message of Gov. Letcher, of Va.

RICHMOND, Jan. 7.—The Message of the Governor, in alluding to the condition of the country, says:

All see and know and feel the danger to be imminent; and all true patriots are exerting themselves to save us from the impending perils.

He renews the proposition made in his last Message for a Convention of all the States, and says it is monstrous to see a Government like ours destroyed merely because men cannot agree about a domestic institution. It becomes our State to be mindful of her own interests. If disruption is regarded as inevitable, and if new confederations are to be formed, we must have the best guarantees before we can attach Virginia to either. He condemns as hasty the action of South Carolina, which has taken her Southern sisters by surprise.

RICHMOND, Jan. 7.—The House to-day adopted a resolution to appoint a Committee with instructions to report a bill for the calling of a State Convention.

AN INCIDENT AT FORT SUMTER.—One of the Baltimoreans who lately returned from Fort Sumter details an impressive incident that took place there on Major Anderson taking possession. It is known that the American flag, brought away from Fort Moultrie, was raised at Sumter precisely at noon on the 27th ult., but the incidents of that "flag raising" have not been related. It was a scene that will be a memorable reminiscence in the lives of those who witnessed it. A short time before noon Major Anderson assembled the whole of his little force, with the workmen employed on the fort, around the foot of the flagstaff. The national ensign was attached to the cord, and Major Anderson holding the end of the lines in his hands knelt reverently down. The officers, soldiers and men clustered around, many of them on their knees, all deeply impressed with the solemnity of the scene. The chaplain made an earnest prayer—such an appeal for support, encouragement and mercy as one would make who felt that "man's extremity is God's opportunity." As the earnest, solemn words of the speaker ceased and the men responded Amen, with a fervency that perhaps they had never before experienced, Major Anderson drew the "Star Spangled Banner" up to the top of the staff, the band broke out with the national air of "Hail Columbia," and loud and exultant cheers, repeated again and again, were given by the officers, soldiers and workmen. "If," said the narrator, "South Carolina had at that moment attacked the fort, there would have been no hesitation upon the part of any man within it about defending that flag."

A LETTER FROM "OLD IRONSIDES."—The venerable Com. Stewart, of the U. S. navy, having been invited to attend a meeting in Philadelphia, to adopt measures to avert a dissolution of the Union, responded in a letter, from which we quote:

As a native of this city, on the call of my fellow citizens, had my views been essential to what I might deem just, honorable and patriotic, I should have advised a rendition, not only to the South, but to all the States, of a full, fair and constitutional redress of all grievances of which they had a just right to complain, on their relinquishment of all oppressive or mutinous proceedings founded on the action of any State whatever, and a restoration to the charter articles of the constitution anything of which they may have been deprived though a vicious, unfair or latitudinous construction of that instrument, or a revision of the constitution itself, which so closely bind together myriads of the human family—seeking, under it, all their rights in pursuit of honor, welfare and happiness. As an important nation, we should bear in mind that, through the imperfection of human nature, no combination, even of the most profound and virtuous minds, can arrive at perfection; and that all difficulties and dangers cannot, in a first essay in forming a code for the perpetuity and stability of a bond of fraternal brotherhood and union, be foreseen and provided for in so extensive a community of powers; and our own unfortunate experience may teach us in future that no compromises will ever prove to be a corrective for wrongs done or meditated.

My voice is, millions for the redress of *just* grievances, but not one cent for *imaginary* ones.