

ored and deprived of all influence in the national councils, this state has been dragged into an unnatural and distressing war, and its safety, perhaps its liberties, endangered.

It is therefore with great concern, that your Committee are obliged to declare their conviction, that the constitution of the United States, under the administration of the persons in power, has failed to secure to this Commonwealth, and as they believe, to the eastern section of this union, those equal rights and benefits, which were the great objects of its formation, and which they cannot relinquish without ruin to themselves and posterity. These grievances justify and require vigorous, persevering and peaceable exertions, to unite those who realize the sufferings, and foresee the dangers of the country, in some system of measures, to obtain relief, for which the ordinary mode of procuring amendments to the constitution, affords no reasonable expectation, in season to prevent the completion of its ruin. The people, however, possess the means of certain redress ; and when their safety, which is the supreme law, is in question, these means should be promptly applied. The framers of the constitution, made provision to amend defects which were known to be incident to every human institution ; and the provision itself was not less liable to be found defective upon experiment, than other parts of the instrument. When this deficiency becomes apparent, no reason can preclude the right of the whole people, who were parties to it, to adopt another ; and it is not a presumptuous expectation, that a spirit of equity and justice, enlightened by experience, would enable them to reconcile conflicting interests, and obviate the principal causes of those dissensions, which unfit government for a state of peace and of war, and so to amend the constitution, as to give vigor and duration to the union of the states. But as a proposition for such a convention from a single state, would probably be unsuccessful, and our danger admits not of delay, it is recommended by the Committee, that in the first instance, a conference should be invited between those states, the affinity of whose interests is closest, and whose habits of intercourse, from their local situation and other causes, are most frequent ; to the end, that by a comparison of their sentiments and views, some mode of defence, suited to the circumstances and exigencies of those states, and measures for accelerating the return of public prosperity, may be devised ; and also to enable the delegates from those states, should they deem it expedient, to lay the foundation for a radical reform in the national compact, by inviting to a future convention, a deputation from all the states in the union.— They therefore report the following Resolves—which are submitted.

H. G. OTIS, *Per order.*

RESOLVED, That the calamities of war being now brought home to the territory of this Commonwealth, a portion of it, being in the occupation of the enemy, our sea coast and rivers being invaded in several places, and in all exposed to immediate danger, the people of Massachusetts are impelled by the duty of self defence, and by all the feelings and attachments which bind good citizens to their country, to unite in the most vigorous measures for defending the state and expelling the invader; and no party feelings, or political dissensions can ever interfere with the discharge of this exalted duty.

Resolved, That provision be made by law for raising by voluntary enlistment for twelve months or during the war, a number of troops not exceeding ten thousand rank and file, to be organized and officered by the Governor, for the defence of the state.

Resolved, That the Governor be authorized to accept the services of any volunteers, and to organize them as part of the aforesaid troops, who shall hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning, to any part of the