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RICHARD MAUZY, Editor & Proprietor.

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, RICHMOND, Jan. 7, 1861.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates:

My proclamation, issued on the 16th day of November last, was intended to convey to you the considerations which induced me to convene you in extraordinary session.

Duty, however, requires me to more fully explain to you the reasons which induced me to convene you in extraordinary session, and to present to you the recommendations which I deem to be for the best interests of our country.

Entertaining a profound respect for the intelligence, experience and information of the gentlemen constituting the two Houses of the General Assembly, I feel that it would be a reflection upon them to accompany each recommendation with an explanation of the reasons which induced me to make it.

With these preliminary remarks, I address myself to the discussion of the most important question that has ever claimed your attention, and in the determination of which so much human happiness or misery is involved.

FEDERAL RELATIONS.

The condition of our country at this time excites the most serious fears for the perpetuity of the Union. "Glooms, overlapping clouds, are wearing o'er our country a dark, fearful aspect." The country is torn by dissension, and every angry excitement exhibits itself in all sections; passion and prejudice have taken absolute possession of the minds of the people throughout the land.

It is interesting to trace our progress, from the formation of the constitution up to the present time. The results will be found in the highest degree gratifying to our pride as a people, and immensely important, so far as our power and influence as a nation are concerned.

our peace and the continued existence of the Government. All we feel and know that the danger is imminent, and all true patriots are exerting themselves to save us from the perils now impending over us.

My inaugural message, presented to you just one year ago to-day, was prepared in anticipation of the occurrences of the past year, and I saved all the wisdom, prudence and patriotism which I could command, aided by Divine Providence, to rely upon to relieve us in this hour of our extremity.

Seeing no other hope of averting the threatened danger, I cordially endorsed the proposition presented by Col. Manning, of South Carolina, and Mr. Starks, of Mississippi, for a conference with those States.

I now again most respectfully renew the recommendation presented in my inaugural message, in the following extract: "The only mode of remedying the evil, that occurs to me, under the Constitution, is provided in the fifth article thereof."

"I suggest, therefore, that you adopt resolutions in favor of the call of such a convention, and appeal to the Legislatures of the several States to concur in the application of the provisions of the article aforesaid."

"The late Executive of South Carolina is not content to announce this determination, but his recommendation is to be carried into effect by every slaveholding State on the border which is not disposed to follow her lead."

"The introduction of slaves from other States, which may not become members of the Southern Confederacy, and particularly the border States, should be prohibited by legislative enactment, and by this means they will be brought to the attention of the Northern States."

"In support of my position, I quote from the message of Governor John Floyd, dated January 23, 1863: 'The object of the ablest and most reliable of the State-rights men of Virginia, though he has been taken from amongst us, he has left behind him a record as enduring as time.'"

"But the call of a general Convention of the States, in order to amend the Constitution, is the compact every doubtful or disputed power of the Federal Government, in the mode pointed out by the instrument itself, where all amendments should be made, and disputed powers settled."

"It becomes our State to be mindful of her own interests, in the present deranged and unsettled condition of the Union. The cotton States seem to be looking to their own interests alone, and why should we not look to ours? Virginia has immense interests, valuable and important, at stake, and it becomes us to see that those interests are adequately protected."

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Why Virginia alone, of all the Southern States, should have been singled out for comment, is to me unaccountable. The Resolutions of the South Carolina Legislature, asking the conference, were transmitted to all the Southern States, and none of those States responded, except Mississippi and Alabama."

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