

in future to the able bodied white male citizens between the ages of twenty-one and forty years.

But your committee cannot concur in the sentiment contained in the latter part of the sixth paragraph of the report referred to, which inculcates the idea that the militia are only to be employed on sudden emergencies, and until a more permanent force can be provided. As it is contrary to the policy of free governments to make offensive war, your committee are of opinion that a properly organized and disciplined militia would be adequate to the defence of the country, and should be mainly relied upon as the only safe and efficient resort in the event of hostilities.

It will be necessary for the general government to keep up a military force sufficient to garrison the fortifications erected by that government for the national defence, but when the soil of our country shall be invaded, the militia should be relied upon to defend it, and to expel such invaders.

While the people retain the sword, they can control the destinies of their country, and it will be safe. We have the experience of nations gone before us to prove this position; so long as the citizens of Greece and Rome, defended their country in person, they were free, independent and powerful, and when that high and honourable duty was devolved upon mercenaries, they lost their liberties, and became the slaves of those whom they hired to defend them—let us avail ourselves of the sad experience of those nations, and endeavour to avoid those errors which brought upon them such signal misfortunes. There is no truth better substantiated by history than that large standing armies are hostile to, and destructive of free institutions.

Your committee concur fully with the sentiment contained in the report referred to in relation to that provision of the law of '92, which requires every militiaman to arm and equip himself at his own expense; the report says it is wrong in principle and oppressive in practice.

To carry into effect the foregoing views, your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That our senators in Congress be instructed, and our representatives be requested to use their exertions to procure such amendments of the act of Congress, organizing the Militia, as shall relieve the people as far as practicable from*