

In order that this great purpose might be accomplished, it was essential that each State should be preserved as an indestructible political unit.

In the oft quoted words of the Supreme Court of the United States, their purpose was to establish "an indestructible Union composed of indestructible States."

For "without the States in union, there could be no such political body as the United States."

It is manifest, therefore, that when the people, in this same Federal Constitution, conferred upon Congress and the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States the power to "amend" that Constitution, it could not have been their intention to authorize the adoption of any amendment, or any measure under the guise of an amendment, which would wholly or partially destroy the States, by taking away from the States any one of their functions, essential to their separate and independent existence as States.

The right of a State to determine for itself by the vote of its own people, who shall vote at its own State, county and municipal elections is one of those functions.

When we surrender to any outside power the right to say who shall vote at our state elections, we surrender the right to determine who shall govern the State, and, without the right of local self-government, we cease to be a State and become a mere province, with far less power to determine our own destiny than we had prior to the American Revolution, under that charter granted by the British Crown.

*Resolved, Further, That the General Assembly of Maryland could not exercise the power to ratify this so-called nineteenth amendment, conferred upon it, or supposed to be conferred upon it, by the fifth Article of the Constitution of the United States, without violating, in most flagrant fashion, the Constitution of our own State.*

The Constitution of Maryland limits the rights of suffrage to men. The people of Maryland have not conferred upon their General Assembly any right to amend that Constitution by extending the franchise to women.

Yet this proposed nineteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution, if adopted and held valid, would, in effect, amend the Constitution of the State of Maryland in that respect and establish woman suffrage in this State. without