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Feb. 10

A Message from the Army of the Valley of Virginia.

At a meeting of the thirty-sixth and sixtieth regiments and forty-fifth battalion Virginia infantry, Smith's brigade, Wharton's division, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the arms of the Confederate States, during the recent campaigns, have sustained serious reverses, which have caused an undue despondency in some portions of our country, and created an unpatriotic doubt as to the final result of our struggle, and induced some to entertain the treasonable thought of making terms, unworthy of freemen, with the enemy that seeks to destroy them: Therefore, we, the officers and soldiers of the thirty-sixth and sixtieth regiments and forty-fifth battalion Virginia infantry, do resolve

I. That in the beginning of this revolution we volunteered in response to the first call of our country to battle for the sovereign right of self-government, and that, after four years of terrible war with the savage foe who seeks our subjection, we are still firm in our determination to achieve our independence or to perish nobly struggling for it.

II. That in the cause of our country is involved all we hold dear; that it has been consecrated by the blood of those heroes who have fallen in its defence and the blessings of Almighty God, manifested on many occasions, and that we once more renew our vows to adhere to it through weal or woe.

III. That whilst we will hail with joy that peace which brings to us the recognition of our independence and assigns us our proper place in the family of nations, we cast from us with scorn the arrogant and insolent propositions recently made to our Commissioners by Abraham Lincoln, as representative of the people of the United States, and respectfully urge our Government to apply every resource of the country to the vigorous and untiring prosecution of the war as the only means of obtaining an honorable peace.

IV. That we send this declaration greeting to our friends at home, within our lines and on the border of Western Virginia, and bid them be of good cheer and "never despair of the Republic."

V. That copies of these resolutions be sent to our Representatives in the General Assembly of Virginia and in the Congress of the Confederate States, and also to the newspapers in Richmond with the request that they be published.

CAMP OF SMITH'S BRIGADE, Feb. 10, 1865.

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