

Transcription

"Remain true to the Union"

On one side of us is a united nation of nineteen millions of people; on the other, a divided population of nine millions. We stand between them. If we remain true to the Union, we shall have protection and peace, and hereafter an easy settlement of all our complaints. If we desert the Union, we shall be driven into a confederacy which has but little sympathy with our interests, and less power to protect us, against the ravages of the frequent wars which must inevitably arise between the two sections. . . .

Whilst we have a Constitution and code of laws for our State government, and local officers to administer them, the Executive and his immediate subordinates have submitted themselves to the government of the Confederate States. They have thrown off their allegiance to the United States, and are now diligently and laboriously preparing themselves to wage war against the government of the Union. We need not characterize, in terms, such conduct, but as true and loyal citizens of Virginia, we can and must declare, that in our calm and deliberate judgment, it will be the duty of the people of North Western Virginia, to provide, in the lawful and constitutional mode, for the exercise of those Executive and Legislative functions of our State government, which have been entrusted to those who are faithless and disloyal, and thus save ourselves from that anarchy which so imminently threatens us.

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