The original plan of the Federal expedition was to occupy Jacksonville for only a few hours, for the purpose of reconnaissance; but the representations of the "loyal" residents of the town caused Colonel Whipple to abandon the idea of immediate evacuation. Pickets were stationed and the troops went into camp or were quartered in the vacant buildings. On March 19th, General T. W. Sherman, commander of the department, arrived. He came for the purpose of personally acquainting himself with the situation here, and in his report he stated that the act of Colonel Whipple in regularly occupying Jacksonville was a wise one.

In the meantime, the Confederate troops in the vicinity of Baldwin, under the command of Colonel W. S. Dilworth, were recruiting and otherwise preparing to resist any attempt of the Federals to march into the interior of the State.

Proclamation of the Loyal Citizens

As soon as Jacksonville was thoroughly in the hands of the Federal army, a meeting of the "Loyal Citizens of the United States", was held, at 10:30 a. m., March 20, 1862, C. L. Robinson, chairman; O. L. Keene, secretary; John S. Sammis, S. F. Halliday, John W. Price, Philip Frazer, and Paran Moody, being the committee appointed to draft resolutions to lay before said meeting. The following is a true copy of these resolutions:

We, the people of the city of Jacksonville and its vicinity, in the county of Duval, and State of Florida, embraced within the territory and jurisdiction of the United States of America, do hereby set forth our declaration of rights and our solemn protest against the abrogation of the same by any pretended State or other authority.

First. We hold that government is a contract, in which protection is the price of allegiance; that when protection is denied, through weakness or design, allegiance is no longer due.

Second. We hold that an established form of government cannot be changed or abrogated except by the will of the people, intelligently and willingly expressed and fairly ratified.

Third. We hold that no State of the United States has any legal or constitutional right to separate itself from the government and jurisdiction of the United States.

Fourth. We hold that the act of the Convention of the State of

†Do not confound with W. T. Sherman.