

are right in our claims and pretensions, to secure their sympathy and kind feeling, if not kind action: and we could then safely entrench ourselves behind the ordinance of 1787, fortified by the doctrine, well understood in this country, that all political communities have the right to govern themselves in their own way, within their lawful boundaries, and take for ourselves and our state the boundaries fixed by that ordinance, form our state constitution, which should be republican, apply for admission into the Union with those boundaries, and if refused, so that we could not be a state in the Union, we would be a *state out of the Union*, and possess, exercise and enjoy all the rights, privileges and powers of the *sovereign, independent state of Wisconsin*, and if difficulties must ensue, we could appeal with confidence to the Great Umpire of nations to adjust them.”¹

The accompanying address to congress is written in the same defiant spirit. “The unauthorized action of the general government” is sharply alluded to, in what the memorialists call “plain and candid” words. “It is confidently hoped that congress will guarantee to Wisconsin these improvements in return for her loss of border, * * * that thereby all cause for controversy between Wisconsin and the sovereignties on her borders, and with the national government, may cease, and she be admitted into the Union with that portion of her territory which has not been granted to other powers, upon an equal footing with the original states.” Then comes this warlike sentence:

“Should congress, however, turn a deaf ear to our claims upon their justice or refuse to atone for the wrongs they have done us, we ask them, before doing so, to reflect upon what they may reasonably imagine will be the consequences, and to know, as they well may, that Wisconsin will never peaceably submit to so gross a violation of her rights, and that, after she has done all to obtain a peaceable redress of her wrongs which reason demands, and shall have failed, she will resort to every other means in her power to protect and preserve her rights, and that she will never lose

¹ The italics are those of the original.