

## Transcription

### "War is upon us."

I believe, sir, that if there is anything under the sun which by possibility may arrest this terrible catastrophe of war, it will be a union among ourselves and a unanimous vote in this Convention in favor of the ordinance of secession. I see nothing else that may save us from that disaster; and I hope and trust it will be the sense and the pleasure of the gentlemen from the Western portion of the State to unite in this measure, and not let our enemies in the North be backed by assurance given by a divided vote here that Virginia is not united—that Virginia cannot maintain this war because there are domestic difficulties—because there is a prospect of civil war within her own limits, which will need all her power and energies to put down. That is to be the effect which is to be produced by any appearance of division here.

I appeal to gentlemen—I implore them to come now and put their hands to the work, and aid if possible, if not in averting this war, in maintaining it. This is all I have to say. I have troubled this Convention but little since its commencement. I have not engaged in those discussions which have occupied our time for months. But, sir, now is the time for action. I could not suppress the inclination I felt to make one appeal, at least to my Western friends, to come up and aid us in accomplishing what we are now about to engage in. War is upon us, and we are compelled to make the best of it. Let our Western friends, by all means, assist us in so doing.

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