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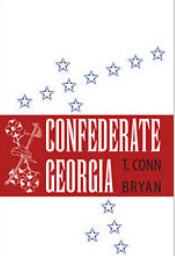
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 CHAPTER I
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Secession
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THE GEORGIA LEGISLATURE CONVENED for its annual session on November 6, 1860, the day of Lincoln's election, and on the following day Governor Joseph E. Brown delivered a special message to the general assembly. The result of the presidential election was as yet unknown, but many Georgians believed that the election of Lincoln was a foregone conclusion. The Governor's message laid before the legislature an invitation of South Carolina to a convention of Southern states "to concert measures for united action." Governor Brown opposed South Carolina's proposal, but in doing so he did "not wish to be understood as expressing a willingness to acquiesce in the repeated aggressions of the non-slave-holding states."¹

Justifying secession upon the concept of the Union as a business partnership, Governor Brown said that whether the will of the people of the South should be ascertained by a general convention of the Southern states, or whether each state should decide for herself, was an unsettled question, but that for himself, he had "no doubt of the right of each state to decide and act for herself." He recommended in the event of the election of the Republicans that a state convention be summoned; and for the purpose of defense and to prepare for an emergency, he asked for an appropriation of a million dollars as a military fund.

The Governor further suggested to the legislature that laws be passed giving him the authority to seize the property in Georgia of any citizen of the offending Northern states. He urged also that laws be enacted that would drive Northern manufactured articles from the markets of Georgia; and he declared that, if necessary, "all . . . laws of this State which protect the lives, liberties, and property of the citizens of other states while in this State" should be repealed.²

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