

Any other doctrine subverts all government, abolishes all law, overturns the whole fabric of social and civil society, and throws us back into anarchy and barbarism.

In short, it is downright practical nullification and moral treason !

To return to the bill before us. It is an act, entitled, "An Act, for the compensation of loyal citizens of Maryland, whose property has been taken, damaged, or destroyed by the armies of the United States and of the so-called Confederate States."

It proposes to appropriate out of the treasury of Maryland, a sum of money, not to exceed one million of dollars, to compensate the loyal citizens of the State, for losses of property, sustained by, and through, the armies engaged in a most terrific, and bloody civil war, of three years duration.

During this period all, or nearly all that part of the State, bordering on the Potomac, has at different times been invaded ; and in some counties, as in Frederick and Washington, especially the *latter*, the entire county has been overrun by both armies, and the property of citizens seized at the point of the bayonet, and either destroyed on the spot, or removed by the foe, beyond the reach, or control of the owner.

In some of the most fertile districts of Washington county, every trace of fencing, or of cultivated land, has been either effaced by the track of the invader, or consumed on the spot, whilst both armies lay encamped upon our soil, and for all practical agricultural purposes, these lands are almost as valueless to the State, and as useless to the owner, as the unbroken prairies of the West, or the unfenced desert which stretches its barren waste onward to the Pacific seas.

This is but a part, however, of the general wreck, which the ruins of war, have wrought in our midst.

Two hundred thousand armed men swept across our entire county, plundering the citizens in their course, of every description of property, including horses, cattle and sheep ; to say nothing of merchandise of every kind ; and in many instances, the occupants were dispossessed, or driven from their homes, and the furniture of private families, articles of clothing, and every culinary article of domestic use, including bacon, bread and flour, were seized without ceremony, and appropriated alternately to the use of either army.

And after the defeat of the rebel army at the battle of Gettysburg, both armies returned to camp upon our soil, in