...gomery County Sentinel.

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ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND, FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 1, 1861.

Vol. VI.---No. 27.

...he National Crisis.

...TTER OF COLEMAN YELLOTT, ESQ. ...te Senator from Baltimore City, TO GOVERNOR HICKS.

BALTIMORE, January 21, 1861.

...the Hon. T. Holliday Hicks, ... Governor of the State of Maryland:

Dear Sir: While returning from An...polis on Monday morning last, I read with some surprise an article in the Baltimore Sun of that date, headed "Governor Hicks and the Legislature."—...hat article contained the following ex...ct from the report made by the Talbot ...nty committee in regard to their re... interview with you:

...he Governor stated that from in...tion on which he relied, and which ...erived from sources not accessible ... people of the State, he was con... that the Legislature, if convened, ...t once declare in favor of the ...n States, and send as ambassa... those States gentlemen who have ...minent in urging the call of the ...ov. That immediately on this ...ion being made, the city of Wash...ould be taken by a body of 8,... now organized for that purpose. ...il war would be caused by this ... would thus be brought about ...ing the Legislature."

...ling that the Talbot committee ...rted you correctly, I feel it to ..., as one of your political and ...ends, to address you this let... ...e purpose of endeavoring to ... mind of an unfortunate illu... ...I much fear has caused you ...ss nights.

...right in the opinion that ...egislature, if convened, ...d exercise the power of ...ng this State to secede ...s most wise and patri... to warn the people of ...I refuse to lend your ...about an extra session ...ure! If the General ...land, "chosen eigh...," had assumed to ex...ver of annexing our State ... confederacy, they would ...nifty of an outrage upon the ...e people, and a flagrant usur... They would have done what no ...ire of South Carolina, Georgia, ...pi, Alabama or Florida dare... in each of these States ...ting a ...erel ... enable the people ...gates chosen to such con... ...cide for themselves for or ...ion, as they might prefer. ...f all your recent published ...rge that the General As...yland, if convened, would ...which, in other States, have ...ly by *conventions* elect... ...y from the people.

...rave charge against the ...e present General Assem... should have had very strong ... evidence of its truth before ...ntured to publish it.

...s a member of the Senate of Mary... I feel that the charge applies to me ...ell as to my associates; and it is due ...m, to you and to myself, that I ...ay that I know the accusation ...ly unjust. From my personal ...ge of the opinions of eighteen of ...-two Senators, I know that ...e has been any possibility of ...through that body of resolu... ...mitting this State to secession ...my personal interviews with ...leading members, I feel safe ...e same in regard to the ho... House of Delegates.

...ore, most respectfully suggest ...e unintentionally done great ... the General Assembly, and ...cedless panic among the peo... ...recent publications caused ...men to shudder at the peril ... supposed had been so nar... ...ed, convinced, as they were, ...neral Assembly would have ... their families and property ... Union almost as soon as it had ...

...ural consequence, many mass ... Maryland and at the North, ...anks to you for saving Mary... ...the republic from the usurpa... ...and treason of *such* a Legislature.

... your answer to the Talbot commit... ...you say that your information in re... ...d to the supposed action of the Legis...ature "*was derived from sources not accessible to the people of the State.*" This is strange, passing strange. The members of the Senate and House of Delegates are in daily association with "the people of the State;" and it seems singular indeed that their suspected views, in regard to voting Maryland out of the Union, had not become known to other people of the State besides your Excellency.

In your address "To the People of Maryland," dated January 3d, 1861, ...d say:

"For myself, I have lived long ...ough to know how to despise false re...ts. A man need only fear unfavora... reports when they are true."

This same kind of philosophy has enab...d me to feel very amiable, notwithstand...g the repeated attacks published by ...ur Excellency against the members of ...e present Legislature and all those who ...dvocated its convocation in extra ses...ion. These animadversions have not ...abated, in the slightest degree, the per...sonal friendship and high respect which I have ever entertained towards you. I know you are honest and patriotic, and that you earnestly desire, in your official action, to protect the rights and promote the true interests of the people of Maryland. I know that you anxiously desire to ascertain what these rights and interests are, and *how* you can most efficiently guard the one and promote the other.

Under this belief I take the liberty of presenting the following suggestions. I hope you will, at your earliest convenience, maturely consider them. If any of them meet your approval, I shall feel gratified. If *you* differ with the views I present, then I shall feel far less confident of the correctness of my own opinions.

First.—Five States—South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Florida—having actually seceded, and withdrawn from Congress their ten Senators and twenty-seven representatives, the sectional party which elected Abraham Lincoln have now a majority in both branches of the National Legislature, and, after the fourth of March next, that sectional party will have the power to pass such laws as they may see proper. They may abolish the present federal judiciary, establish a new system and appoint new judges; may abolish slavery in the District of Columbia; and create a standing army of such number as they may think sufficient to prevent Maryland and other border slave States from resisting the injustice of any part of their anti-slavery policy.

Second.—Every other southern State, except Maryland, seems to have declared the present to be an "extraordinary occasion" which required the deliberate action of their *people* to remedy present or prevent future evils. Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Missouri, Tennessee, Delaware, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas have all either actually called sovereign conventions of the people, or their Legislatures have been convened and are about to call such conventions, in order that their *people* may have an opportunity of deciding as to their own future destiny.

Third.—Unless Congress speedily adopts the Crittenden resolutions, or some other plan of conciliation of a similar import, it is almost certain that every State south of the Ohio and Potomac will secede from the present Union before the 4th day of March, 1861. Therefore the success of any such plan of settlement, if there is great danger of such secession of thirteen southern States.

Fourth.—Should Virginia, Kentucky and the other States south of the Potomac and the Ohio secede from the present Union and form a southern confederacy, Maryland will have to decide (and promptly) whether she will join such southern confederacy, or unite herself with the free States of the North. It may happen that the separation now *probably* about to be made will not be a peaceable one. "*Coercion*" seems to be the favorite word in the most recent cabinet councils at Springfield!

Should Maryland unite her fortunes with Mr. Lincoln and the eighteen free States, every citizen of our State would owe allegiance to a nation at war with Virginia and the rest of the South. We would be bound, under the penalty of a traitor's doom, to render such service as our government might require of us in the prosecution of such a war. The Potomac would be the dividing line, and Marylanders would have to meet there, sword in hand, regiments of Virginians—men who had done them no injustice, against whom they had no cause of complaint, and with whom, more than any other people, they had been most closely allied, from the days of the revolution to the present time, on the battle field, in business relations, and by ties of friendship and of blood.

Should Maryland unite her fortunes with the South, we may have to meet at Mason and Dixon's line, regiments of Pennsylvanians.

This is the alternative which may be forced upon us.

Some timid (or prudent) men have suggested that a due regard to her *safety* should require Maryland to go with the North. This seems to me but a superficial view of the question. If, against our wishes and prayers, the present Union is dissolved, and war ensues between a Northern and Southern Confederacy, the geographical position of Maryland makes her a battle-ground, whether she joins the North or the South. The Potomac is little more of a natural protection than Mason and Dixon's Line; and if the descendants of the old "Maryland Line" (the Spartans of the Revolution) could stop to debate the question of where was the *less danger*, it would be decided by answering the inquiry whether there was the greater danger from facing a regiment of Pennsylvanians or a regiment of Virginians! If Maryland goes with the South, the capitol of the Southern Confederacy may remain at Washington. If she goes with the North, it will not remain there a single year, as no nation would decide to locate its seat of government and its public archives within cannon shot of a hostile country, and put its chief executive where he could not go to bed on any night without fear of finding a bomb-shell in his chamber before sunrise the next morning.

Fifth.—Apart from any consideration as to relative personal danger, the people of Maryland, in selecting between a Northern or a Southern alliance, would be attracted to the latter by their *commercial and pecuniary* interests.

Every landholder in Maryland is more or less interested in the growth and prosperity of Baltimore. Double her population, and the value of every farm in the State is increased. Reduce the population of Baltimore to what it was 50 years ago, (about 40,000,) and the value of every acre of land in Maryland is diminished. The rapid growth of Baltimore has been caused by her commerce, or trade. That trade is chiefly with the South. It is true that Baltimore deals also with the North. But how? She *buys* from the North; but, as to about nine-tenths of her *sales*, they are to the South. Should separation be forced upon us, and Baltimore be put with the southern confederacy, she would hold her own—would not recede—and most probably would increase in business, prosperity and population. Place her in a northern confederacy, and she forthwith loses nine-tenths of her present customers. Norfolk will soon become what Baltimore now is. The favorite sea-port of Virginia—possessed of a splendid and secure harbor—with thousands of population and millions of capital attracted thither from New York and Baltimore, Norfolk would rapidly increase, and the "monumental city" as rapidly decrease in trade and population.

With such a separation, of the American States as that just indicated, and then a war between the sections, what would become of the trade which sustains Baltimore? The two principal avenues which bring that trade are the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and the Chesapeake Bay. Both would virtually be closed.

The Baltimore and Ohio railroad would then terminate at Harper's Ferry! Baltimore would be cut off, not merely from the trade of Eastern Ohio, but from that of Western Virginia, the Southwest, and even the coal trade of Western Maryland.

The mouth of the Chesapeake is between Cape Charles and Cape Henry—both part of Virginia soil. Two batteries erected there—and a few war steamers—would cut off Baltimore's connection with the ocean.

What, then, would become of the trade which has built up Baltimore and now sustains her population? What, then, would become of the $20,000,000 invested by the State of Maryland, the city of Baltimore, and the people of the State, in the construction of 400 miles (including the Parkersburg branch) of railroad west of Harper's Ferry? What, ... and become of the thousands of our citizens ... interested in the trade brought to us by that railroad?

If we go with the South, we may lose our customers in Ohio. But, if we go with the North, and war ensues, we not only lose these customers, but all our southern ones, who, it is well understood, constitute at least three-fourths, and probably nine-tenths, of the whole.

Sixth.—If Virginia and the other States South of the Potomac secede from the present Union, *no* action on the part of Maryland is equivalent to an election to join a Northern confederacy in preference to a Southern one.

Under the circumstances in which we are now placed, a "masterly inactivity" on the part of Maryland is synonymous with annexation to the North and separation from the South. To keep Maryland passive—to prevent any action on her part—to prohibit her people from deciding as to their own destiny, is to decide that destiny for them and annex them to a Northern confederacy! It is deciding that, if war comes, the people of Maryland shall fight Virginians in preference to New Englanders!

Seventh.—I think that the question as to whether the people of Maryland shall go with the North or with the South is so important a one that *they* should have an opportunity of deciding it for themselves. I think it would be most presumptuous for a Legislature elected "eighteen months ago" to assume to decide that question, and I think it even *more* presumptuous for a *Governor*, elected more than *three years* ago, to assume to decide it. The General Assembly has no right to transfer the people of Maryland either to the North or to the South, because they were elected for no such purpose. You have no right to make such transfer, because the power is not given to you by the State constitution; neither was it delegated to you by the people when they elected you in November, 1857. When you decide to do nothing, you, in effect, assume to make the transfer.

Eigth.—There seems to be a singular inconsistency between the policy which you have recently advocated and that which you have actually pursued. In your address "To the People of Maryland," of the 3d of January, you say: "Believing that the interests of Maryland were bound up with those of the border slaveholding States, I have been engaged for months past in a full interchange of views with the Governors of Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri, *with a view to concerted action upon our part.* These consultations, which are still in progress, I feel justified in saying, have resulted in good, so that when the proper time for action arrives these sister States, bound up *in a common destiny*, will, I trust, be PREPARED TO ACT TOGETHER."

Since you wrote the above the Legislatures of all four of the States you name *have* been convened; and in some, or all, of them these Legislatures have provided for the election of conventions. You have told the people that you correspondeed with these States "with a view to concerted action upon our part," and in order that Maryland and these States "might be prepared to act together," Now you have determined, so far as you can control the question, that they shall *not* "act together," and that Maryland shall not act at all!

You have materially varied from the policy approved by you on the 3d of January. Pardon me for saying that I think you were right as to that policy, but wrong as to your present one.

Ninth.—There are many hundreds of people of Maryland, and very many thousands north of Maryland, who believe they have a direct personal and pecuniary interest in preventing any "concerted action" between Maryland and the other "border slave holding States." I allude to those gentlemen who aided by their votes, or otherwise, in the election of Mr. Lincoln, and who feel confident that certain offices of honor and profit will be bestowed, after the 4th of March, as a reward for their patriotic services. Is it strange that there should have been much of "concerted action" on the part of these republican patriots to influence you in changing the policy you so distinctly announced on the 3d of January? If rumors be correct, that "concerted action" has not merely extended to the passing of complimentary resolutions by republican Legislatures, and to the firing of salutes by republican meetings in honor of yourself, but it has exerted itself in slandering the present Legislature of Maryland, with a view of exciting popular prejudice against its convocation. With that object, it has not merely filled column after column of some of the leading papers of the State with deceptive letters and essays, but, if recent rumors be true, it has actually purchased a controlling influence in some of these papers, and is now daily using their editorial columns for the purpose of deceiving the unsuspicious masses of their readers! When you speak of deriving your information "from sources not accessible to the people of the State," I respectfully suggest, that you should anxiously inquire as to the interested *motives* of some of those who have originated charges against the Legislature, which are equally unjust and absurd.

Tenth.—Permit me to invite your especial attention to the following provisions of our State constitution.

"The right of the people to participate in the *Legislature* is the *best security* of liberty."

"A long continuance in the executive departments of power or trust is *dangerous*."

"For the redress of grievances, and for amending, strengthening and preserving the laws, the Legislature ought to be *frequently convened*."

In your recent action you seem to have lost sight of these fundamental principles of our State government. These principles proclaim that the legislative branch is the "best security" of the rights of the people, and that the danger to their liberties is to be feared chiefly from the "executive departments." You have in effect proclaimed to the people of the State that the Legislature is a nuisance and an evil, and that you only should be trusted in this terrible crisis with the decision of their future destiny!

When Charles the First determined to trample upon the rights of the people of England, he found that the Legislature (or Parliament) was the chief obstacle in his way. He therefore "resolved upon a plan of ruling without the aid of a Parliament." He announced his purpose by proclamation."

You by proclamation" have announced that you have resolved upon a plan of ruling without the aid of a Legislature.

The final result of King Charles' rash experiment was his deposition and execution, an aggrieved and indignant people.

I have heard no one attribute to you any of the ambitious motives which prompted the action of King Charles, but I have heard the inquiry made:

"Upon what meat does this our 'Cæsar' feed. That he hath grown so great?"

From personal knowledge, I have a very big opinion of your intelligence and patriotism. But *you* must have a much more exalted opinion of them, when you think to be your especial and exclusive duty to decide the future destiny of over 700,000 people, without allowing them an opportunity of speaking for themselves! In view of your present position in no other light.

You refused to convene the Legislature. You refuse to convene "the Senate alone." You refuse to call a convention. And you even refuse to permit the people an opportunity of saying whether they desire to have such a convention!

Please give a few moments' consideration to the above suggestions, and believe me,

Very truly your friend,

COLEMAN YELLOTT.

P. S.—Since writing the above, I have read in the Baltimore American your letter to the Alabama commissioner, the Hon. J. L. Cobb. In that letter you assume to speak again and again for the "people of Maryland," not merely as to *their* present opinions, but in regard to the future policy they intend to pursue. From what clause in the State constitution do *you* derive the power of thus "committing this State?" If it would have been an usurpation on the part of the Legislature to have assumed to commit this State as to future policy, I much fear that ten thousands of Marylanders will think that you yourself have been guilty of the same offence which you have charged, on mere suspicion, against the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates. If there is to be any "committing" of this State, it seems to me that the people themselves should have an opportunity of taking some part in the business, through a convention elected for that purpose, and that, too, without unnecessary delay. C. Y.

AN ENGLISH VIEW OF AMERICAN PRODUCE.

The London Chronicle has an interesting article on the vital necessity to England of the cotton of America. It reiterates the aversion to slavery of its people, and adds:

"But we cannot allow the poor sable creature to exhaust all our sympathies; and when we hear foolish, well-meaning people, whose minds seem incapable of receiving more than one idea, exult in the hope of a slave insurrection—which would put an end to the production of cotton in America—we can but wonder at the strange infatuation that prevents their seeing how it would affect us.—Statesmen and traders, peers and mechanics, seem to be all alike. It is time this blindness and delusion ceased. It is impossible to reflect seriously upon the nature of our cotton supply, without evoking a phantom that no exorcism will banish. It seizes and transports us to some extensive town, whose tall chimneys are visible in every direction; but there is no crowd in the streets; no nail door or shop is open. There are no issuing clouds of smoke—not one pulsation of the iron giants is heard—no whirling of the spindle—no throwing of the shuttle—no clanking of the loom—no hum of human voices—not one sound of human life. This unearthly stillness chills our blood. Where, then, are these five hundred thousand busy, intelligent human beings that should people it?—We enter an open house; we penetrate room after room; and, impelled from street to street, we find everywhere living skeletons, and a voiceless misery and death, until, arriving at the deserted exchange, we read: "The cotton supply from America has ceased."

But could it be that any of our great manufacturing towns should ever present such a spectacle? Are we, then, so dependent on American cotton? At present it is but too true. America supplies nearly three-fourths of our cotton, and therefore the greatest danger that can threaten this country at the present time is a sudden cessation of the supply of cotton from America. The French Emperor of the old ladies, with all his dreadful fleets and armies, is a pet lamb in comparison with such an event. An enormous amount of British capital and the lives of millions of British people depend on our cotton supply being constant and adequate. We have no desire to create any unnecessary alarm; but where the national safety is concerned, every possible danger for which a remedy may be found ought to be treated as if it were a probable danger, in order to stimulate the procuring of that remedy. To show that there is no exaggeration in our statement, we appeal to the following unimpeachable facts: Of 328,000 tons of cotton wool imported last year, 328,000 were American. Of the total cost, £30,000,000, about £21,000,000 was for America. When manufactured, this cotton produced—exports, £51,000,000; home consumption, £24,000,000, total, £75,000,000. Of this £60,000,000, for American. The wages and profit of manufacture were £15,000,000; of this £36,000,000 of American. We pay for much of this cotton by products of our hardware and other manufactories. Suppose we pay thus £15,000,000. It results that out of our total export trade of £131,000,000, American cotton in a manufactured state figures to the extent of £40,000,000, which, with the £15,000,000 above, makes £55,000,000 of and for American cotton—only £10,000,000 less than one-half of the total exports of Great Britain. At the same time manufactured American cotton to the value of £20,000,000 a year is being sold in shops and warehouses, and consumed in the United Kingdom. Then there are the mercantile transactions connected with this 328,000 tons of cotton—the shipping employed in its import and in the subsequent exports. It is not so easy to estimate the amount of capital engaged in this commerce, manufacture, and trade, and involved in transactions with the United States, all mixed up more or less with this cotton supply; but it must amount to from two hundred to three hundred millions sterling.

So much for goods and money; and what as regards human life? Nearly 400,000 people are engaged in manufacturing American cotton only, and *from three to four millions of human beings depend upon it and upon its manufacture for their daily food.* Yes, four millions of men, women and children—not negroes, not Americans, but white people—English, Scotch, and Irish—now happy, contented, and even prosperous, and adding largely every year to the national wealth, would be plunged into the lowest abyss of misery by the failure of the American cotton supply, should this happen before some palliative or substitute is found. And we say it is impossible adequately to estimate the awful calamity of such a failure of supply. Why, fifty Gladstones rolled into one Chancellor of the Exchequer would find it difficult to make both ends meet. Talk of income tax, we should want one of ten shillings in the pound and with nothing coming in to assist, realized property in paying it. This view of it is bad enough; but that of the immense mass of misery, suffering, frightful death, and social confusion it would produce, is worse still. Passions would become inflamed, the maddened people would strike right and left in their fury; imaginary grievances would be elevated to the first rank of realities; and whatever else might be saved from the vortex, it is quite certain that all the artificial distinctions of society would vanish as a dream.

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT.

The following is a synopsis of the report of the Comptroller of the Treasury of Maryland, for the fiscal year, ending on the 30th of September, 1860:

The total receipts for the fiscal year were $1,048,339 67; which added to the ballance in the Treasury, as of September 30th, 1859, makes an aggregate of $1,561,630 83. The actual receipts in the preceding fiscal year exceeded those of the year just closed by the sum of $152,213.10. The revenue which accrued and was received in 1860, was $97,058.46 less than the sum which accrued and was received in 1859.

The disbursements for 1860 amounted to $1,306,013.08; exceeding the revenue which accrued and was received within the fiscal year by the sum of $111 231.88.

On account of the Special Appropriations made by the Legislature at its last session, there was disbursed during the year the sum of $162,639 98. This sum does not include the payments made to The Eastern Shore Railroad Companies. These Companies received $44,882 25. There are also a number of appropriations yet remaining unpaid either wholly or partially.

The sum remaining in the Treasury at the close of the fiscal year was $255,187 75; subject, however, to certain charges therein enumerated, amounting in all to $284,849.20, which being deducted, would leave a balance against the Treasury of $29 261.45. So that if all these demands had been made on the 1st of October, 1860, the Treasury would have been unable to meet them. Fortunately they were not made, and the State has thus far escaped such embarrassment and discredit.

The probable receipts into the Treasury during the present fiscal year are estimated by the Comptroller at $1,119,940.89. But many of the sources of revenue are so irregular and uncertain as to render it difficult to form a satisfactory and reliable estimate; and of course the receipts will be affected by the monetary condition of the country, incident to the crisis.

The probable demands upon the Treasury are estimated at $998,514.

The receipts from Direct Taxes during the year amounted to $249,972.09; being $1,928.92 more than was received from that source last year.

There was in the Treasury on the 30th of September, 1859, to the credit of the Free School Fund $24,127.87; and this, added to the receipts on the same account during the last fiscal year, makes an aggregate of $111,322.43, to the credit of the fund; of which there was disbursed during the year the sum of $91,889 90, having to the credit of the Fund the sum of $19,432.23. The average receipts for the use of Free Schools amount to about the interest at 6 per cent. on $1,200,000, without reckoning the annual appropriation of $100 to certain counties.

The receipts for the use of the Sinking Fund amounted to $245,377.02; all of which, with the exception of $5,157.68, was promptly applied by the Treasurer to the augmentation of said fund. The purchases made during the year for the Sinking Fund, added to its amount at the close of the preceding year shows that said fund amounts to $1,828,387.03. The Stocks purchased for said fund were obtained on an average, at a fraction *under par*. In this connection the Comptroller "acknowledges the hearty co-operation he has received from the Treasurer in the administration of this department of the State Government."

The receipts from Clerks of Courts amounted to $290,465.51, of which $272,285.77 was for Licenses.

The receipts from Registers of Wills was $64,074.64.

The revenue from Excess of Fees of office was $10,814.57.

From Auction Duties there was received $13,120.08; and from Auctioneers' Licenses $5,900.

The Northern Central Railway paid but $10,000 of the $90,000 annuity due to the State.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad paid $77,821.95 for one-fifth of receipts from passengers on the Washington Branch. And $19,111.20 were received for interest on Dividend Bonds of said company; and from Stock Dividends of same company the sum of $90,536.

The Susquehanna and Tide Water Canal Companies paid but $33,000 of the $71,445.54 which accrued to the State during the year.

The receipts from Tobacco Inspectors were $86,606.38; and the disbursements were $81,510.03.

The receipts from Grain Inspectors were $7,274.47, and the disbursements were $5,846.21. The Inspector General reports that 474,680 bushels of Wheat, and 585,656 bushels of Corn and other Grain were inspected during the year.

Agents of Foreign Insurance Companies paid for Licenses $8,600. The Live Stock Scales paid $10,053.80; the Hay Scales paid $1,282.16; and the State Wharves $3,672.24.

The total assessed value of Real and Personal property in the State for the year 1860 was $282,180,498.

The Comptroller concludes with expressing the belief that no serious apprehension need be entertained of the ability of the State to meet her obligations.