

instrument would not have been adopted, nor could the Union have ever been formed. If the union of the States, can only be preserved by an unconditional surrender of clear constitutional rights, secured to its members, if the Federal Government, instead of a system of liberty, equality and law, is to be perverted into an engine of force, oppression and fraud, then, indeed, has the day arrived, when the South, at least, must pause, in sorrow and anguish, to calculate its value. The crisis, though impending, is not yet come, and the evil hour of disunion, so much to be deprecated, may, it is devoutly to be hoped, be forever averted. Non intervention is all the South has ever asked, and, however reasonable the request, it has been more than once, coldly, if not indignantly, refused. The time for reason and argument seems to have gone by, and the perpetuity of this mighty republic, with all the countless blessings which it is capable of imparting, must now rest upon the firm, united, temperate, but determined action of the southern States; and to this end, it is believed, to be the duty of the representatives of the people of Maryland, to reflect the sentiments of their constituents, by the solemn declaration, in advance, of the unalterable determination of this State, in the event of the passage by Congress of the "Wilmot Proviso," or any similar scheme, to make common cause with the South, and to resist to the end, the execution of a measure so palpably violative of her rights and so pregnant with injustice, disgrace and degradation.

I have thus endeavoured to place before you, in a manner, as brief and intelligible as circumstances would allow, every topic of prominent importance in the administration of public affairs, or, in any way, connected with the rights and interests of our common constituents. Upon the Governor of Maryland, is devolved, not merely the administration of the general laws of the State, but particularly and exclusively, the execution and enforcement of the system of revenue enacted for the redemption of the public debt; and, whether the complicated character of these laws, the revenue which they produce, or the number of agents charged with its collection and payment is adverted to, it may well be inferred, that so far from a sinecure, the Executive office is one of ceaseless labor, anxiety and care. With what fidelity, its various duties have, for the last two years, been discharged, the records of the Treasury, and of other departments of the government will abundantly prove; but with what sacrifices of personal convenience and individual comfort, their performance has been attended, can be known only to myself, and to those, whose experience has familiarised them with the unavoidable expenditures, incident to the station. Invoking upon your councils the over-ruling providence of Almighty God, with a firm reliance upon your wisdom, judgment and patriotism, I cannot doubt, but that the deliberations of the General Assembly, will be so tempered with moderation, prudence and foresight, as to redound to its own credit, and to the glory and honor of our beloved State.

PHILIP F. THOMAS.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Jan. 1st, 1850.