

every friend and lover of our cherished Union shrinks with an instinctive dread. Indeed to such an extent have fanaticism and sectional resentment prevailed in some sections of the Union, that we have been made to witness the enactment of a law by a sovereign State, for the open and avowed purpose of resisting acts of Congress, passed in pursuance of the express terms of the Federal Constitution, and the necessity of enforcing such acts at the cannon's mouth by the strong arm of Federal power.

Such an event furnishes most unmistakable proof that we of the South have but little to expect but injustice and oppression from that fell spirit of abolition so busily engaged in shaping the legislation and inflaming the minds of the people of some of our sister States against their Southern neighbors. Hitherto its power for mischief has been held in check by those self-sacrificing and truly national men at the North, who standing upon the platform of the Constitution have nobly vindicated the equality of the States, and whose wisdom and patriotism have aided us in upholding the fabric of our Union. But should these dangerous spirits whose chief employment it is to array the North against the South, and to infuse into the minds of the people a restless spirit of contention and strife, peradventure obtain the ascendancy in the National Councils we have great reason to fear that our blessed Union will prove to be put a rope of sand, and the Constitution which is the sacred bond of that Union, instead of being a protecting shield and a blessing to the people of the South, an instrument of undisguised tyranny.

The Territories of the United States are the common property of all the States; won by the common blood or purchased by the common Treasure of the Union, and to deny to the citizens of the Southern States the right of migrating thither, carrying with them their slave property, is to all intents and purposes, to refuse them admission altogether, and thus exclude them from an equal participation, with the people of the Northern States in the common blessings of the Confederacy.

Let the Territories be settled by the natural influx of emigration, and if those by whom they shall be thus settled, in their transition from the condition of Territorial communities to that of States, pass laws or ordain and establish Governments prohibiting slavery, the South ought to be and will be content.

The principle of the act organizing Territorial Governments for Nebraska and Kansas, is that which underlies and permeates our entire system of Government, namely, the right of the people to govern themselves, and to regulate for themselves, in their own way, their own local and domestic Institutions. This is the only principle that gives promise of permanent peace and tranquility to the country. It withdraws from the councils of the Nation a most fruitful source of angry contention, and opens before us the bright path of safety. It is the only principle by which