

a permanent adjustment of so many critical questions, to heal the public agitations and perpetuate the Union, they have received our acquiescence, and have inspired us with admiration of those eminent statesmen, who rising above the influence of party and sectional considerations, periled their well earned reputation for the enduring welfare of their country.

4th. That the vigorous and faithful execution by the General Government of all laws made in pursuance of the Constitution, is its primary duty, and affords the only security for the just protection of the rights and property of the citizens, and for the permanency of the Union; and it is equally the duty of all good citizens to encourage and support the officers of the Government in the execution of the laws, and to discountenance and rebuke the efforts of those who seek to subvert them, and while therefore we entertain every proper confidence in the ability and determination of the Chief Magistrate of the Union, faithfully to perform his duty in the present crisis, and take the opportunity to tender to him our assurances that in any emergency that should require it, he may safely rely upon the cordial co-operation of the people of Maryland, we cannot withhold the warmest expression of our firm and continued reliance upon the patriotism of those of our countrymen, in all sections of the Union, who have fearlessly asserted the constitutional rights of the South; and in view of the calamities which must ensue, if those rights continue to be violated, we would earnestly suggest to the Governments of the non-slave holding States, the propriety and importance of enacting such laws as will facilitate the recovery of fugitives from labor: and upon the citizens of every State, we would anxiously urge the absolute necessity of maintaining and enforcing each and all of the measures of adjustment adopted at the last session of Congress.

5th. That of the aforesaid series of laws that intended to ensure the restoration of fugitives from labor is the only one professing to protect the peculiar rights and institutions of the Southern States, from the mischievous hostility of a wicked fanaticism in other portions of the Union, is but a tardy and meagre measure of compliance with the clear explicit and imperative injunctions of the Constitution, and holds out the only hope that the protection which the South was authorised to expect from the Union of the States, to this species of property will be afforded to them, and being the chief inducement to the South for its accession to the compromise, the repeal of that law, or the failure to enforce its provisions, could only be regarded as evidence of a determined purpose in other States, to violate the sacred charter of our rights or a want of ability in the General Government to enforce the laws made for our protection, and in either event there would be a failure to comply with the solemn obligations which give to the constitution its chief