

Believing, as I do, that my fellow-citizens of Maryland, and of the whole South, with few exceptions, whatever their former antecedents, desire now to co-operate cordially in the work of restoration, by a recognition of the old flag, as a renewed pledge of restored brotherhood, we should be ready to receive the approaches of all such in a spirit of kindness.

In the part allotted to me as your Executive, I shall go on as I have done since this lamentable war ended, despite detraction and abuse, come from whatever source it may. Denounced as a traitor to principles which I have never recognized—to extreme men who have already brought shame and dishonor upon their State—to vindictiveness and intolerance which I despise—to that glorious Union which I have loved better than my life, I submit myself to the impartial judgment of the people of Maryland, through their chosen Representatives, for the uprightness of my conduct and the purity of my intentions.

I cannot forget that I am living in an epoch when Christian principles are the recognized rule of human conduct. If in the unswerving exercise of my official duties, I have saved your State from threatened invasion by men who were ready to plunge it again into the horrors of civil war, and the not less disreputable machinations of revolutionary agitators in your midst—if I have turned back the current of a bitter and unforgiving party rancor which threatened the very existence of your political and social fabric—If I have restored to the people of my State their just rights under their Constitution and laws, I may congratulate myself that my administration thus far has not been without its fruits, in maintaining the supremacy of the laws—the freedom of Republican institutions, and the credit of Constitutional Government, upon which alone our permanency as a people must always rest.

THO. SWANN.