

The effort on the part of a class of extreme men, to turn to party account occurrences so insignificant in themselves, and susceptible of such conclusive explanation, is only to be accounted for, as connected with the attempt already foreshadowed, to include Maryland in the list of revolted States, awaiting the fiat of territorial subjugation. Maryland was one of the original thirteen States. It was in this Capital and almost on the very spot where you now stand, that the Union was conceived. The loyalty of her sons has been the pride and boast of her past history, from the period of the revolution down to the present moment. She recognizes no test of republican orthodoxy, but her rights and duties under the Constitution. These she will defend by every means in her power. In committing the unpardonable sin of denying to the negro the privilege of suffrage, she stands by the side of others of her sister States of the North, not less criminal than herself and certainly as uncompromising and obstinate in their settled convictions upon this subject. If, as is threatened, a State which has sent one-tenth of her population into the field to defend this Union, can be degraded and blotted from existence, upon no other pretext, than her fixed purpose without interference, to regulate and control her domestic affairs, we have only to regret that her patriotic sacrifices in the past have been in vain, and that the Union has fallen in hands more formidable than those against whom she has been arrayed in this war. Maryland will continue to stand by the Constitution, as she will fearlessly raise a warning voice, which she does now, against usurpation, come from what quarter it may. She will not presume to identify Congress with a purpose to insist upon any such extreme and revolutionary measure, so far as regards herself. The arrogance of power may prevail for a season; but it cannot fail to occur to all intelligent men, whether in Congress or elsewhere, that power must always follow the fluctuations of party, and States or individuals who to-day may combine to set aside constitutional guarantees, may find themselves ere long, when left without a guide, the deluded victims of their own short sighted policy. If the time should ever come, which my respect for the representatives of the people would make me slow to anticipate, when in the face of the Constitution, and of every principle governing the past relations of the States to the Federal power, a majority in Congress shall succeed, in usurping the functions, which the States have heretofore rightfully exercised, we may count the duration of this Great Republic by years instead of centuries, and read its certain downfall in the history of nations, once as prosperous as our own, but now remembered only in the record of their former greatness and premature decay.