

MARYLAND LINE CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS' HOME.

THAT there was a division of sentiment in Maryland, upon the causes which led to the war between the States, no one will deny ; yet no intelligent observer, or one at all familiar with the facts, will refuse to admit that the large preponderance of public opinion was heartily in favor of the cause of the South.

Maryland, by reason of her geographical location, close commercial interests with the tobacco and cotton-raising States, similarity of institutions and intimate social and natural relations with the people south of the Potomac, was emphatically a Southern State. Of the same ancestry, prevailing customs and habits, and kept closely welded by intermarriage, with the same views of the character of the Federal Union, and the rights and privileges which were reserved to the States under the Constitution of 1789, it would have been unnatural to have found her people engaging in a fratricidal war of desolation and invasion of those communities, to which she was so bound by historic and sympathetic ties.

The conservatism of her people was pronounced, but the right of self-government had, on this Continent, no firmer supporters and defenders than in Maryland. It did not take long to make manifest the temper and intentions of her people ; and, therefore, by the strong arm of power, and by a most vigorous military despotism, were her legislative bodies dissolved, her leading citizens jailed and sent to dungeons, and the condition of the State reduced to that of an alien principality held by armed forces. The blow fell no less quickly than it did firmly ; but still it did not prevent the young men of the Commonwealth from forsaking the comforts of their homes, and singly, or in small parties, crossing the Potomac and enlisting in the armies of the Confederacy, to battle for the rights of their State, even though she was manacled and helpless. Unable to speak for herself through the regularly appointed methods, the sovereignty of Maryland found representation in the strong arms of the fifteen thousand or more — the flower of her youth, who gave their service to the South, and in the anxious hearts of those who remained at home, and nightly sent up their blessings and prayers for the absent ones, while their daily care was to mercifully assist the unfortunate who, in prison and hospital, were visited and ministered unto, as far as the sufferance of those in power would permit.

The devotion of the women of Maryland, and the insult and indignity to which they were subjected in these merciful ministrations, are of the past ; but no less will the truth of history chronicle their deeds and the oppression under which her people