

the arts, science, and education has been such as to place her in the front rank of the states—while in the world of sentiment, the mention of Key and the “Star Spangled Banner”—Randall and “Maryland, My Maryland,” brings home the fact that Maryland gave both to the Nation and Confederacy, battle hymns which remain unequalled and unsurpassed.

A vast more could be said as to Maryland's part and place in the panorama of our Nation's progress, and with just cause for individual and State pride. The hard fate of a universal war, however, forces us, even in this place, and on such an occasion, to turn our whole attention to considerations of defense and self-preservation. Time will not wait; the danger is at our gates. Even now, at times, it seems almost too late. If we would survive, virtually every other consideration must be put to one side, and every energy, individual and collective, in both State and Nation, must instantly be thrown into the battle scale.

It was my happy privilege on the occasion of your Maryland Day celebration two years ago, to discuss with you some of the major contributions made by Marylanders of the past to the development and progress of our great Nation. I pointed out that the heritage of Maryland should ever be remembered by our citizens because we did not commemorate on this memorable day merely a landing of Pilgrims. The exceptional fact which Marylanders throughout history should always commemorate, I attempted to emphasize, was that these settlers had definite and avowed purposes underlying their expeditions.

First and most important, they desired to found a new colony where freedom of thought would prevail. This has constituted our first debt to the Maryland Pilgrims. While, fortunately, the matter of one's principles of life is no longer a burning issue in America, this is no longer an issue today only because men and women like those who landed at St. Mary's took up arms to kill it. Moreover, there was an additional matter at stake. It concerned the whole principle of freedom, and involved the broad question of self-determination. The Maryland Pilgrims put forth their efforts for the dignity of the human race. Theirs was a bold and dangerous proceeding because to pursue such a course involved danger of death, or of penal servitude.

In those days, unhappily, minorities right here in America were in danger of their lives for no other reason than because they were minorities. This condition, from the very first, Maryland sought to correct. She became the sanctuary of exiles from many lands as well as from the other colonies. She went even further than that, for which the adoption of the Act of Toleration in 1649, Maryland became the first and only American Colony whose Government pledged itself to protection of the human conscience.

That spirit of the early Maryland Pilgrims, which has ever characterized our citizens, still manifests itself. It came down to us through the war of the Revolution. It found expression in the Annapolis Tea Party; at the battle of North Point; during the grave days of the Civil War. Of even greater importance, it flames brighter than ever today in the hearts of our people. In the face of the grave threat to our National existence today, they have given, and are continuing to give, unmistakable evidence of that spirit of confidence in