

The founding of Maryland, then, was a pioneer expedition toward the frontier of human liberty—one of the earliest and one of the bravest efforts to establish the principle that Democracy must be spiritual as well as political freedom. In this respect, once again I am reminded of incidents which seem to liken the Empire State and her southern sister. New York was among the first slave-holding communities to pass her own emancipation laws. And Maryland exactly three hundred years ago last April, enacted what was undoubtedly one of the most liberal pieces of legislation in existence. This was known as the Act of Toleration. It guaranteed to every man the right to think and believe and worship as he pleased.

Toleration—We have a fondness for that word in Maryland. It comes down to us by the oldest law of possession—the law of inheritance. It is our legacy and birthright. Nothing is more natural than that a spirit of tolerance has permeated our whole of life. But Tolerance need not always be connected with matters that are great and grim. It is a spirit, I have said, which permeates the Maryland way of life. The Act of Toleration is also the Law of Moderation.

The world of 300 years ago needed the lesson of tolerance that the early Maryland settlers taught. Vastly more does the world of today, and of tomorrow, need this Maryland spirit of tolerance if we are ever to solve successfully the pressing problems of social reform, of strife between labor and capital, of class against class, and of nation against nation. To respect another's rights while vigorously defending one's own, has ever been Maryland's way. We recommend it to the world at large, because three centuries have proven it a success in Maryland.

We have many things of local pride in Maryland—but we do not speak with bated breath about them all. Three wars have been fought over our land, but we are much more likely to remind our visitors that it was a Marylander who wrote the Star Spangled Banner; that another man from Maryland, James Rumsey shared with Fulton the credit for inventing the steamboat; that raw oysters and steamed crabs are among the finer things of life; that race-horses run faster and dairy cattle give more milk when bred in Maryland; that whenever a Supreme Court Justice buys one of our farms he is getting ready to make an important decision about retiring from the bench; that "Babe" Ruth learned his trade on Baltimore diamonds; that one of the most human things our State Legislature ever did was to vote for adjournment so its members could go fox hunting.

This is "Maryland Day" at the World's Fair. The occasion deserves, I think, an appropriate slogan. Ninety-one years ago a miracle of science occurred in Baltimore. The first telegraph message came over the wire from Washington and these were the words:

"What hath God wrought."

I believe that same message will do very well to express our wonder and admiration at what we have before us today on these magnificent Fair Grounds.

"What God hath wrought—through the imagination and industry of men."

All these achievements are represented and magnificently portrayed in this mighty Fair and we express appreciation at the opportunity of viewing it and of having Maryland a participant in this greatest of all undertakings.