

The war now actually pending, and the calamities of which may be precipitated upon the country at any moment, is between the United States and the Southern Confederacy. The States of Virginia and Pennsylvania are only parties to the war, in so far as they are members of their respective confederations. They can form no treatise, nor can they enter into any arrangements, touching the cessation of hostilities, except through their respective general governments. Although, therefore, they are our immediate neighbors, geographically, it is not perceived that they occupy a political position which renders it more proper that we should communicate directly with them, in regard to a suspension of the war, than with any other of the States belonging to the two sections of the dissevered Republic. Independently of this objection, applying equally to the missions proposed to Virginia and Pennsylvania there are especial reasons against opening any diplomatic or legislative intercourse with the latter State, which address themselves with peculiar force to the minds of the committee. In no State of the Union, not even in Massachusetts, has the feeling of animosity to the whole South, and especially to Maryland, been displayed with more intensity of rancor than in the State of Pennsylvania. The long established relations of friendship and good neighborhood, which, it was supposed, would have modified the resentments of any conflict, in which the two States might unhappily be arrayed against each other, seem rather to have added bitterness to the hostility of the people of Pennsylvania against us. The course of their legislation, the tone of their press, and the current of their popular sentiment and action, have all been governed by the most inflamed vindictiveness towards our State and her citizens. The conservative and kindly feeling which undoubtedly exists in many quarters of Pennsylvania, to a large extent, in our behalf, has been completely stunned and overpowered by the rampant passion of the dominant party, and a law of treason and sedition, cunningly and despotically fashioned, has put an end to all free expression of sympathy or opinion. Judging from the popular demonstrations and abuses of the law which have already put in peril the lives and liberty of so many of our citizens, when found upon the other side of the border, the committee have no reason to feel assured that the observances of civilized nations would be respected, in favor of any representatives whom we might send to Harrisburg. But even if it were otherwise, they do not think it would be compatible with the dignity of the State, or result in any practical good, for which a point of dignity might be waived to inaugurate any new relations with Pennsylvania, at present.