

the clear, explicit and imperative injunction of the constitution." The provisions of that law could not be violated or deliberately evaded without leading to a dissolution of the Union."³

Copies of the above resolutions were sent to the executives of several states. Governor Collier of Alabama in acknowledging the receipt of the resolutions said that Maryland had spoken frankly and patriotically, and that the South would be true to the Union so long as the "sacred charter of our rights was respected and honored, and the general government manifested a willingness and ability to enforce the law made for the protection of the South."⁴

Similar resolutions were adopted by the citizens of Frederick county. These resolutions declared emphatically that the fate of the Union depended upon the future conduct of the North.⁵ The convention expressed also its great admiration for the eminent statesmen "who, rising above the influence of party and sectional considerations, periled their well-earned reputations for the enduring welfare of their country."

On the 25th of March, 1851, the convention entertained at dinner the Hon. Daniel Webster. Mr. Webster took a leading part in defense of the compromise measures in the United States Senate,⁶ and was honored by the people of Maryland as "the ablest defender of the Union." Amid speech-making and toast drinking the attachment and loyalty of Maryland to the Union was proclaimed.⁷

The subject of apportioning representation in the General Assembly among the several counties and Baltimore

³ See Resolutions, *Baltimore American*, December 12, 1850.

⁴ *Debates of Convention*, vol. i, p. 384.

⁵ See *Baltimore American*, November 18, 1850.

⁶ See Webster's Speech, 7th March, 1850; Webster's Works, vol. 5, p. 324.

⁷ See Pamphlet, "Dinner given to Hon. Daniel Webster by the Md. Reform Convention, 1850."