

Maryland at no time lost sight of her plain line of duty. Identical with the Border Slaveholding States in the character of her domestic institutions, and especially the institution of slavery, she had fraternized with them in commercial interchange, in social sympathy, and the results of an extensive intermarriage among her people. Her commanding position on the Chesapeake Bay offering unrivalled facilities, and intercepting the trade of a vast section of Southern territory, with a climate singularly adapted to the storage and distribution of their staple articles of production, pointed to her chief commercial city as the undisputed mistress of these prospective sources of wealth, and the entrepot of the exports and imports which were destined to follow the growth of Southern development. Her material interests might be claimed as centering south of Mason and Dixon's line. But Maryland was an integral of a great political system. Had she been less patriotic and self-sacrificing she might have shared the fate of her more thoughtless and impulsive sisters. Overwhelmed by caresses in the early stages of this rebellion, she stood unshaken amidst the glittering temptations that were held out to her to wean her from her allegiance. Anxious always to cast her lot with Virginia, in firm reliance upon her tried loyalty in the past, she turned away in disgust when she saw the Mother of States buckling on the armor of rebellion. In the fierce conflicts which have marked our past history, Maryland has stood as a moderator between the sections. When the rebellion broke out she was called to decide between slavery and the Union, and she determined to cast her lot with the Union. There she stands to-day, and there she will stand forever.

There are many who believe, and not without reason, that the chief instigators of the deluded masses of the South now engaged in this war, before and since the rebellion broke out, desired a change in their form of government. The leaders—I will not say the people—saw at an early day that the protection which had been extended to slavery under the Federal Constitution was not sufficient, in the midst of events which were every day occurring, to guard it against the steady march of civilization and christianity. They could not shut their eyes to the reality that the institution was fast tottering to its ruin. They needed a more absolute and despotic rule, and more stringent and peremptory laws to accomplish the safety which they so much desired. And hence they have struggled, since the days of Mr. Calhoun, to provoke a misunderstanding which would lead to a dissolution of the Union and the erection in their own section, of a government better suited to their wants. They required new guarantees for the protection of slavery, and under whatever pretext they are now moving, their misguided people may find, when it is too