

The duty of the State of Maryland to extend, at all times, the amplest protection to her own citizens, is not to be overlooked in the views which I am presenting. The desecration of her soil by an invading army must always be a source of mortification to her pride, especially when such contingencies may be guarded against by timely legislation. There have been periods during the rebellion when her agriculture has been suspended, her citizens driven from their homes, the homestead of her highest functionary ruthlessly outraged and burned to the ground, and her chief commercial city with its millions of treasure, subjected to the mercy of a mere handful of irresponsible adventurers. This must not be. The State of Maryland is able to protect herself against the recurrence of similar attempts in the future. It is with satisfaction that I have witnessed the zeal and ability with which preparations have been made to place our State under a through, competent and vigorous military organization. I can only promise that no co-operation on my part shall be wanting in keeping alive a spirit which cannot fail, whether in peace or war, to protect our citizens against insult, and to redound to the credit of our beloved Commonwealth.

It is not a very agreeable reflection to the State of Maryland, in looking back upon the past, that many of her citizens have entertained, and not unfrequently expressed sympathies with the objects of this rebellion. Such evidences of disaffection at the South have been summarily dealt with heretofore by the offer of the alternative of the oath of allegiance to the so-called "Confederate States," or prompt expulsion beyond their lines. The recognition of such a rule here would doubtless have been received as in the highest degree tyrannical and oppressive. It is hardly reasonable to expect, however, that this Government will permit itself to be sacrificed by those upon whom it has a right to rely, and who have made their election to share the protection of its laws. In standing by the Union, Maryland will know how to discriminate between its friends and enemies, and the time has passed when those who really desire its dissolution will be permitted to make a virtue of their disloyalty, or to claim participation in the political power of the State. Differences of opinion upon National and State politics may exist without treason; but the paramount obligation of loyalty cannot be compromised, and the citizen who turns away from his duty of allegiance to his Government—no matter upon what pretext—forfeits the privileges which it confers, and the protection which attaches to the rights of citizenship.

In presenting these views I have deemed it proper, in the position which I occupy, to confine myself, in the main, to our Federal relations, leaving to your present distinguished Executive and a more fitting opportunity the discussion of the