

Government. Such spirit and determination will alone nerve the strong arm which is surely stifling the rebellion, and which no earthly power can arrest or paralyze in its gigantic struggle for the RIGHT.

The animating spirit of the conspiracy, the implacable enemy that seeks the life of the republic, is SLAVERY; and now that the issue has been forced upon us, the destruction of this great evil has become an imperative necessity, an inevitable measure of self-defence. Its overthrow is demanded as the only guarantee for national security, now or hereafter. It originated and has sustained the rebellion, and it would be the grossest solecism to attempt the security of peace by adhering to and maintaining the cause of war.

The clans of the Northmen were in the habit of lighting fires upon the highest summits of their wild land, that each might know that the flame of liberty was still alive and burning in the breasts of the other. So, here, upon this soil of Maryland, consecrated long since to religious liberty, have we kindled the fires of civil freedom, to be followed by similar conflagrations, I trust, in every State of this broad Union.

Accept, then, my salutations, Senators, upon the new attitude taken by our dear old Commonwealth. Other States have gradually emancipated their slaves, and thus relieved themselves of the disadvantages of the institution, but Maryland has accomplished the whole work at once. She has struck down, with one blow, the colossal evil in her midst, and advanced, untrammelled, upon the open path to honor and success. Let us reflect that we have entered into a field of labor demanding all our wisdom, energy and perseverance. If we would act with patriotism, philosophy and statesmanship, we must meet the difficulties before us promptly, comprehensively, honestly. In this march of freedom there must be no step backward. To recede would be worse than ignominy. Order, prosperity and progress will succeed to patient perseverance in the right course—anarchy, adversity and continued strife, as certainly, to a policy of compromise and vacillation. We have wiped from our escutcheon the defacing blot of slavery—the incubus which has paralyzed our members and stifled our resources, has been lifted off. We have taken a brave, manly, open stand for human liberty, and we must not cease the struggle until we have laid deep in the soil of our State the foundations, strong and broad, of enduring tranquility and ever-expanding prosperity.

We are upon the threshold of the first legislative session under the free Constitution, formed and ratified by the people. Let us elevate ourselves to the magnitude of the work before us. The letter of that instrument is nothing if the animating principle be absent. We must not only be charged