

But, illegal and unconstitutional as was the war which the Proclamation summoned one section of the country to wage against the other, the causes and purposes of that war, made it chiefly obnoxious to the people of Maryland and of the Slave States of the Border. It was a war of propagandism and of sectional aggression and domination. It was a war of the North upon the South. It was a war in which the dominant section had seized upon the name and flag, and resources and powers, of the General Government, and was abusing them for its own ends, and for the permanent establishment of its dominion over the other section. It was a war, to the unholy purposes of which the sacred associations and memories of the Union were prostituted, and in which its honored name was taken in vain. It was a war waged against a people of our own name and blood; who sought peace and kindly relations with us, and who asked only to be let alone and to be permitted to govern themselves. It could bring no good, for it could end only in the defeat of the invaders or the subjugation of the invaded, and in either case the Union, which our fathers left to us, must be at an end. Subjugated provinces could not be sister States, and a Federal Government, professedly Republican, maintaining its authority by armies, could not be other than the worst and most unprincipled and uncontrollable of despotisms. The South had entrenched itself upon the principle of self-government. It had offered to negotiate, peaceably and honorably, upon all matters of common property and divided interest, claiming only that three millions of people had a right to throw off a Government, by which they no longer desired to be ruled, and to live under another Government of their own choosing. Unless the American Revolution was a crime, the declaration of American Independence a falsehood, and every patriot and hero of 1776 a traitor, the South was right and the North was wrong, upon that issue. The people of Maryland, therefore, could have but one choice in such a contest, and while as devoted to the Union and as loyal to the Constitution, as the people of any of the thirteen States, who had formed the one and pledged themselves to the other, they could not but throw the whole weight of their sympathies upon that side to which common interests and institutions inclined them, and with which they felt that the right and the truth were. Nor was it a matter of sympathy merely. The breach of the Constitution involved in the coercive policy of the Administration, was a breach of their rights, and not less than an unlawful