

The Committee understand His Excellency as recommending, in general terms, a policy of peace. So far as that naked proposition goes, they give to it their warmest and heartiest concurrence, but they are not sure that they exactly apprehend the mode in which the Governor proposes that the policy he so favors should be carried out. His language is as follows: "I honestly and most earnestly entertain the conviction that the only safety of Maryland lies in preserving a neutral position between our brethren of the North and South." He then enters into a consideration of the part which Maryland has taken in the sectional contest that has been waged, and adds: "Entertaining these views, I cannot counsel Maryland to take sides against the Federal Government, until it shall commit outrages upon us which would justify us in resisting its authority." What class of outrages would furnish such justification for resistance he does not announce, but proceeds to say: "As a consequence, I can give no other counsel than that we shall array ourselves for union and peace, and thus preserve our soil from being polluted with the blood of brethren. Thus, if war must be between the North and the South, we may force the contending parties to transfer the field of battle from our soil, so that our lives and property may be secure."

The Committee confess their difficulty in perceiving how, consistently with a policy purely pacific, these counsels can possibly be made available. No matter how decidedly and enthusiastically we "array ourselves for union and peace," it is altogether impossible for us to preserve our soil from the pollution of fraternal blood, unless we possess the means and assert the power to force back the tide of war, if it comes surging across our borders. And that we should consolidate and employ such power, to the extent which the exigency may demand, is obviously the counsel of the Governor, for he proceeds to tell us, that by the action he advises, we may be able, "if war must be," to "*force the contending parties to transfer the field of battle from our soil*, so that our lives and property may be secure." Surely we cannot "force" belligerent armies from our midst, without employing force of our own. It is out of the question that we can prevent them from making our homes their battle-field, unless we have the strength to repel them, and are willing and prepared to use it.

No peaceful "array" whatever—no legislative protest—no Executive remonstrance—from Maryland, can stay the strife of contending squadrons. A deputation from the Peace Society would have been as effectual in arresting a charge at Solferino. If, then, the "neutrality" of the Governor means anything, (speaking with all respect,) it must mean a neutrality armed and resolute—prepared to assert its policy, and able to vindicate it on the field. Otherwise it would be nothing, and would come to nothing. It would only irritate both parties, and stay the arm of neither.