

timore is to unite with their brethren of the counties to preserve the ancient landmarks of the fathers, to ensure equal laws and justice to all, and by moderate counsels and prudent legislation to lay anew the foundations of prosperity for our good old State.

It is for you to say what shall be done under the act of the Legislature for calling a Constitutional Convention, and in so doing you should be firm and confident. The right is clear and undoubted, and no consequences need be considered but such as concern a change in the form of your State organization.

No intention exists to engraft any but well-tried and wise provisions upon your organic law, and the able representatives you will select, should you decide to call a convention, will doubtless watch well the rights and interests of the citizen. Standing, as we do, upon the platform of the wise and great, the lovers and fathers of the government, we shall seek to follow them in the safe paths pointed out by the charter of our common liberties. You cannot be too firm—you cannot be too bold—you cannot be too prudent; consider well the questions before you choose the right, and wherever that may lead you, follow with confidence. The union of Democrats and Conservatives should be fostered by considerations of a common interest and a common object. Nothing now divides them, but each day adds new strength to the cords that unite all good men in the struggle against wrong and oppression. It cannot be long until returning justice will turn the hearts of the people to each other, and an era of good feeling shall freshly cement the sacred bonds of union and fraternity.

To the hands of the people of Maryland, irrespective of party, this delightful duty has been largely confided; it is no ordinary undertaking and its responsibilities cannot be overrated. To free the community from the pressure of political despotism, the taint of partisan proscription and the vortex of anarchy are the duties of the hour. The circle of States are spectators of our courage and patriotism, ready to wheel into line to achieve the common aim of popular government. We should therefore approach this grave and momentous subject with no narrow spirit of the partisan, but should at once eschew all lines of political demarcation and frown down all schemes of mere personal aggrandisement. It is the people's cause, the people's reward—to them it is entrusted, and to them belongs the responsibility. The Conservatives and Democrats, therefore, fully alive to the magnitude of the issue, have come to the rescue—no longer two parties, but one—and thus united merge themselves into the great body of the people, and earnestly invite, entreat and conjure all good citizens, of whatsoever creed, to rally for the State and the Union. We invoke all such by the memory of the immortal dead, by the inborn reverence of Americans for the federal constitution, by the heroic and stainless history of our gallant State, to join with us in ignoring all platforms save the regeneration of our ancient commonwealth, that the