

Message successfully resisted with impunity, by the citizens of that State. I have gentlemen, reluctantly, referred to this subject. It is one of momentous importance, involving in its possible consequences the dissolution of the Union, and consequent destruction of the best government which has ever been instituted by human wisdom. It is a subject which should not be approached by you with feelings of anger towards our brethren of other States. It should be considered with forbearance, and with the determination, by an appeal to the sense of justice - to the patriotism and love of Justice Country - and to the honour and better feelings of our national brethren, to avert the calamities which must flow from their persistence in the course of action indicated by me, upon this unfortunate subject. I cannot but believe, gentlemen, that a proper appeal by you to our sister State of Pennsylvania, made in a spirit of frankness and friendly suggestion, would meet with such a response and such legislative action by her as would remove all future cause of apprehension and complaint. Make the trial gentlemen, in the spirit I have suggested, and the responsibility of other than favourable consequences, will rest with others.

Having always entertained the opinion which I have never heard controverted, that each State professes the constitutional power to declare what acts shall be considered felonies within her own limits, I cannot think the argument to which I have referred of the Attorney General of Pennsylvania, can have successfully controverted a position so apparently self evident as this is to my mind.

I regret that I have no opportunity of examining the argument embraced in that paper, when it was received I enclosed it with the letter of the Governor to the Attorney General of this State, with the request that he would examine the subject, and give me his opinion for your information. I have neither received from the Attorney General of Maryland the opinion which I enclosed to him, nor his opinion, but I suppose both will be received in a few days, when they shall be immediately transmitted to you.

I am sure gentlemen, I may claim your indulgence for referring to one other subject, of deep interest to the whole Country, I allude to the war with Mexico, which has been conducted to the present moment with unabated activity. The intimate relations and mutual dependence of the Federal and State Governments, will warrant at all times the expressions by the latter of the opinions entertained by them, favourable or adverse to the policy and measures of the former, particularly upon a subject involving the