

1861.

I was sure that through some juggle Maryland would be forced to secede. I need not speculate here in regard to the mode by which this would have been accomplished, whether by the bayonet or by some other equally cogent or persuasive process. I merely assert that I believed the plans of the secessionists would have been accomplished if they had had the great power of the Legislature to aid them.

I was, during all that time, positively convinced that a majority of the people of Maryland did not wish the State to secede. They knew that the secession of Maryland would attempt to carry with it the possession of the National Capital; and knowing also that our Northern and Western brethren could not be expected to acquiesce peacefully in such a step, I concluded that our people were not insane enough to wish this State to become one vast battle field and our homes made desolate.

I continued, then, to refuse to convene the Legislature. I hoped that nothing but time was needed to cause even zealots for secession to change their opinions; or, at least, forbear their designs. In this, it appears, I did not accurately measure the extent of their madness.

But I did not know how much I erred in this regard, until my eyes were opened by the occurrences in Baltimore on the 19th of April, and the subsequent events connected with that treasonable outbreak.

I then concluded that I could not hope to gain much more time in which the misguided mob might see its error. And, when Coleman Yellott, Esq., the late Senator from Baltimore city, after advising with the Board of Police Commissioners, and instigated by the more prominent of the