

1861.

this latter, only by the unmistakable threats of an aroused and indignant people.

Restricted in the duration of its sessions by nothing but the will of the majority of its members, it met again and again; squandered the people's money; and made itself a mockery before the country. This continued until the General Government had ample season to believe it was about to go through the farce of enacting an ordinance of secession, when the treason was summarily stopped by the dispersion of the traitors.

Inasmuch as the Legislature in ordinary times is presumed to represent the people of a State, the treasonable action of the late Senate and House of Delegates has apparently placed Maryland in an attitude of hostility to the General Government, and her Union-loving people in a false and unwarrantable position. I say apparently, because the votes of the people on the 13th of June, and again on the 6th of November, have declared in most emphatic tones, what I have never doubted, that Maryland has no sympathy with rebellion and desires to do her full share in the duty of suppressing it.

Looking, therefore, to the evil done by your predecessors, and deeming it impossible to mistake the wishes of the people, as expressed at the ballot-box, I have not hesitated to convene your Honorable Bodies in special session, in order that you may, at once, perform the will of the people, by taking such steps, as will, in your wisdom, seem most effective to vindicate the honor and loyalty of our State.

I have such confidence in the courage, ability, and patriotism which I know to exist in this Senate and House of Delegates, that I might well here conclude this communication. I feel