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into your midst and to give up to the desolations of war your present peaceful firesides. Though such a probability may be remote it behooves you to be ready for all contingencies and prepared by an ample and organized force for the open rebel and the secret traitor.

The one great paramount object which the patriotic everywhere have in view and which must be in Maryland should and I am sure does outweigh and nearly extinguish all other considerations is the restoration of the Union. Whilst among those professing the same object there may be found in some places a comparatively small clap anxious to combine with it other and ulterior views of a selfish and sinister character, we have in our own State I fear a still more dangerous clap secret sympathizers with secession, who by the exaggerated importance they constantly seek to attach to these factious movements and their affected fear of these ulterior purposes are in fact seeking only by such means to undermine the great cause we have at heart and to paralyze the arm we are prepared to raise in its defence. Against these insidious attempts let us be on our guard; let us bear in mind that the great impending peril by which all other perils are eclipsed is the rebellion, that it is to be put down, put down by force of arms at whatever cost and regardless of all other considerations. That once subdued, the nation thereby rescued, and the union restored, we need have no fear for its future preservation or the renovated vigor of our existing constitution. The mighty masses of our population having themselves achieved this success and mindful of the experience of the past will be sure to provide for our security in the future whilst the very last whose influence need be feared in this national regeneration will be the sectional agitator and demagogue who will serve hereafter only as a beacon to warn us from the breakers where we have been so nearly wrecked.

Let the loyal men of Maryland remember then remembering only the great stake they have in the Union and that their local position subjects them to the first shock of its assailants prepare to take a corresponding position in the front rank of its defenders.

Let no collateral considerations distract their counsels. Let no pretended caution against comparatively imaginary dangers, ingeniously magnified and whispered in our ears by rebel sympathizers, suspend for a moment our determined purpose to restore the Union and crush the rebellion, the only danger that now threatens it. Conscript levies and hired substitutes can never stand before volunteers in such a cause. The crisis is at hand one more effective blow and the rebellion must crumble. Let Maryland show if the blood of her Revolutionary line of old still courses through the veins of her sons answer and answer promptly to the call of the President and let no bleeding brethren on recent battle fields be cheered by the assurance that on the next there sons will be beside them.

I make this appeal to the people of the State in advance of any notice I have yet received of the actual quota required of them for the new force now ordered into service. Whenever I am advised more particularly upon this point, their attention will be called to the details of the subject and all the information given that may be of interest or importance.

A. W. Bradford.

P. S. Q. W. Ridgely Secy. of State