

Maryland has, therefore, a moral weight with the South, which armies and Navies cannot give. It would be terrible, indeed, if she should, under any combination of circumstances, be driven to place herself at the head of the Column of secession. Her declaration of disunion would be fatal. Where would Virginia be? where, in fact every Southern State? The result is too terrible for contemplation. And yet, Sir, we must look this contingency right in the face.

Do not understand me as intimating that such disaster is upon us. Far from it. Heaven forbid it. But it is necessary that I should tell you that our people are deeply, and justly exasperated. It is proper that you should be frankly assured that nothing can, or will, or ought to satisfy them but the most prompt, thorough, and severe retribution upon the murderous treason recently committed in Pennsylvania.

I am rejoiced to be informed that those worthy and patriotic Judges, Grier & Shaler, have expressed the opinion that the Crime amounted to treason against the Federal Government, Cognizable, therefore, by the Federal Courts, and punishable, under the Federal laws.

This gives me confidence that justice will be done, speedily and fully. Our people will wait, with all reasonable patience and confidence, to see the issue. Their faith is in the power of the Federal Government, as well as ⁱⁿ its good intentions, will necessarily be governed by the result. Nor is this all. If passion and prejudice should control the verdict of Pennsylvania Jurors, in the trial of this issue, I tremble for the Union. One thing is very clear, and it is this, that Maryland would not remain one day, in the Confederacy, if finally assured either that the powers of the Federal ^{were inadequate} or that the public opinion of the non-slaveholding States was adverse to the protection of the rights, liberties and lives of her citizens. If the Union is to be merely a Union of Minority slaves to majority tyrants, then indeed our government has failed in the end of its creation, and the sooner it ^{is} dissolved the better.

This, I assure you, Sir, is the sentiment of the patriotic South, the Conservative South, the Union-loving South. I am not obtruding upon your Excellency my views and opinions. I am plainly unfolding the views and sentiments of a people with whom I am well acquainted.

It is important that I should do so - it is necessary that I should do so. I fear the latent causes of dissolution, more than those, which have heretofore agitated the surface of our waters. I fear that the North does not believe in the possibility of disunion. Fatal incredulity! If they could only be made to believe it possible, it would then, indeed, be impossible. But, their disbelief renders it even probable.

Believing it to be afar off and ever receding, they act in a manner which will precipitate the crisis, as surely, as it will be, to them, unexpectedly. I do not know of a single incident