

should arise justifying them, in her own judgment, in taking that step" From the words of the claim next following, that, "Since then, assaults upon the rights and institutions of Southern States had continued," prefixed as a reason for the resolution that, "those States should meet together to concert measures for united action,"— as well as from the last sentence of your letter, communicating these resolutions, stating that "South Carolina claims the right to secede, whenever she may think it expedient to do so, but much prefer concerted action"— I supposed (and I think not unreasonably) that the concerted action could only have reference to the right to secede, in company with other States, as preferable to such action on the part of South Carolina alone, under the right claimed by her Ordinance of 1852.

I very gladly correct this error which it is the object of your last letter to point out; and I am sure that the General Assembly, to whom, at their request, I am about to communicate it, will receive with pleasure this correction of a misinterpretation that is not mine alone.

I hope it may not be out of place to add the expression of my belief that some late events have rendered more than ever, unnecessary, the proposed Convention, and of my hope that in the result to which the doctrines of fanatics have led, as well as in their defeat, we may find the beginning of better things. And I trust that these occurrences may cause those to whom under the Constitution, our Federal relations are confided, to concert measures, by united and harmonious action, for the continuance of the Union, in the spirit and to the great ends for which it was formed.

With great respect

I am your obt. servt.  
Thos. H. Hicks

State of Maryland

Executive Chamber  
Annapolis, July 13<sup>th</sup> 1860

Gentlemen of the Senate,

By the resolutions of 1858 Nos. 3 and 4, it was made my duty "to cause such proceedings to be instituted as might be necessary to obtain the opinion of the judges of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, upon the question whether the annual appropriations