

our favorite candidate, and the South is bound in honor to recognize and respect the result, as we would have received of the North to do, had either of the other candidates been elected. So far then, as the cause of secession is concerned, I cannot but think it within just justification, identified, as I am, by birth and every other tie with the South, a slave-holder and feeling as warmly for my native State as any man can be, I am yet compelled by my sense of fair dealing and my respect for the Constitution of our country to declare that there is nothing in the bare election of Mr Lincoln which would justify the South in taking any steps leading toward a separation of these States Mr Lincoln being elected, I am willing to await further results. If he will administer the Government in a proper and patriotic manner we are all bound to submit to his administration, which as we may have opposed his election.

As an individual, I will very cheerfully sustain him in well doing, because my suffering country will be benefited by a constitutional administration of the Government. If, on the contrary, he shall abuse the trust confided to him, I shall be found as ready and determined as will any other man to arrest him in his wrong courses, and to seek redress of our grievances by any and all proper means.

The other chief cause of the excitement referred to in your memorial is the unconstitutional and disgraceful acts of some Northern Legislatures in passing laws virtually nullifying the positive provisions of the Constitution in reference to fugitive slaves. There can be no two opinions in Maryland as to the outrageous character of these acts, for Maryland has been a constant sufferer from them, and has lost more of this description of property than all the extreme Southern States combined.

Strongly insulting to the Southern States, they are in the plainest opposition to the decisions of the highest Court and the letter of the Constitution which these Legislators have sworn to support. But Gentlemen, these laws do not, in any judgement, express the opinions of the conservative masses of the North. We know that there are very many sound Union-loving men at the North, who are utterly opposed to these fanatical measures, passed by demagogues who have been temporarily placed in power by the agitation of the slavery question.

But the sober second thought of the masses, which rarely fails to arrive at right conclusions, will, I firmly trust secure the repeal of these laws, now that their attention has been so distinctly drawn to their evil effects.

Already we see that propositions for their repeal have been made in the Legislatures now in session, and we are informed that similar propositions will be introduced into all of them when they meet. Let us be careful not to weaken the hands of the conservatives by adopting ultra measures at the South,