

which always aid the Northern fanatics, who can only exist by the agitation of the Slavery question. Shall not that conservative class have some kindly consideration at our hands? or shall we regard only the ultraists, both and South, until they shall crush out all hope of perpetuating our glorious Union?

I cannot believe that the convening of the Legislature in extra-session at this time would only have the effect of increasing and reviving the excitement now pervading the country, and now apparently on the decline. — It would at once be heralded by the sensitive newspapers and alarmists through out the country as evidence that Maryland had abandoned all hope of the Union and was preparing to join the traitors to destroy it.

Is such the true position or wish of Maryland? I think I have had very full opportunities of learning the wishes of the people upon this question, and I have no hesitation in declaring it as my opinion that an immense majority of all parties, are decidedly opposed to the assembling of the Legislature at this time. Memorials similar to that which you present have been in circulation for some time, but I have thus far received but one, and that signed only by six names, although I learn it has been presented to the people of the City generally for their signatures. The wishes of the people should certainly be respected in this matter, and their silence, under the circumstances, shows that they see no such necessity for immediate action. In my mind, difficulties multiply as we proceed with the consideration of this subject.

The Constitution of the State prescribes biennial sessions of the Legislature of limited length, and authority is given to the Governor to convene the Legislature only on extraordinary occasions. If I were to do so now it would be necessary to harass the people in some parts of the State, just relieved from an exciting canvass, with elections to fill vacancies, at an unusual and ineluctable season. Any session of the Legislature would be very expensive, but an extra session, of unlimited length, would be especially so, unless the example of the last session of this Body, which almost emptied the State Treasury, would serve as some restraint.

You, gentlemen, favor an extra session only because of the importance of the present crisis; but there are others who think of their own interests rather than those of the State, who would be found seeking to monopolize the valuable time of the Body in furthering schemes of personal advantage, which can well afford to await the meeting at the regular session.

You speak, gentlemen, of Maryland's peculiar position as a border Slave State. The position, between the extremes of North and South, seems, thus far, to have kept sectionalism from her councils, and to have inclined her people to moderate measures. But there are other border Slave States as much interested in these questions as Maryland can be, which ought to be consulted before we take the initiative in this matter.

I believe that neither Kentucky, Tennessee nor