

Border States, since we, and they, in the event of the dismemberment of the Union will suffer more than all others combined.

I am now in correspondence with the Governors of those States, and I await with solicitude for the indications of the course to be pursued by them. When this is made known to me I shall be ready to take such steps as our duty and interest shall demand, and I do not doubt the people of Maryland are ready to go with those States for real ~~or~~ <sup>or</sup> ~~more~~. I fully agree with all that you have said as to the necessity for protection to the rights of the South, and my sympathies are entirely with the gallant people of Mississippi who stand ready to resent any infringement of those rights. But I earnestly hope they will act with prudence as well as with courage.

Let us show moderation as well as firmness, and be unwilling to resort to extreme measures until necessity shall leave us no choice.

I am unable to inform you when the Legislature of this State will be called together; for until I can perceive the necessity for such a step I am not willing to awake the apprehension and excite the alarm which such a call at the present time could not fail to create.

I have the honor to be with great respect your obt. Servant  
 Thos. F. Hoicks  
 Thos. A. Handy, Commissioner of Mississippi

Executive Chamber.

Annapolis, Jan. 3, 1861.

The exciting character of the events now transpiring in our country, naturally agitates and fills with care the minds of the citizens of this State.

There naturally exists among the people an anxious desire to learn what course will be pursued by those whom they have placed in position of trust, and I know that my own course is watched by them with deep interest.

They have a right to be informed on the subject, and although I have in several published letters indicated my views, I yield now to the requests of many of my fellow citizens, and address you this frank statement, calmly and truthfully, in my plain way, representing the actual condition of the question as I believe it to be, and giving my own convictions of what is required of me in this crisis.

From the location of the National Capital within our limits, and our peculiar geographical position, Maryland would inevitable become the chosen battle ground of the sections in the event of civil war.

Her long line of exposed frontier would