

be opened to attack from every quarter, and her peaceful waters would soon become the theatre of the horrid contest. It needs no argument to convince a reflecting mind that such a war would bring upon us more than the usual accompaniments of war—loss of life, destruction of all domestic peace, oppressive taxation—ruinous depreciation of property, and almost universal bankruptcy. As a Union slaveholding State, she would especially suffer in the utter destruction of a cherished domestic institution with which all our sympathies are firmly united.

A brave people, forced into a necessary war, would partially estimate even these great evils, and Maryland never has been, and never would be, found backward in such a contest. But no man who had a real stake in the community would consent to embark in such a future if it could be avoided with honor.

I firmly believe that the division of this Government would inevitably produce civil war.

The secession leaders of South Carolina, and fanatical demagogues of the North, have alike proclaimed that such would be the result, and no man of sense in my opinion ever questions it.

It is not then the business <sup>of</sup> all of us and especially of those placed in authority, to endeavour to prevent the occurrence of such a catastrophe by opposing any thing even tending to produce it?

I fervently hope, and firmly believe, that the Union may be preserved. Our forefathers would not have admitted that the Government was utterly dissolved if the Hartford Convention had dissolved the New England States out of the Union—nor can we agree that similar resolves, passed by the Conventions of one, or two, or half a dozen of the Cotton States, should be considered as working its dissolution at this time.

It is yet thank God, in full existence, revered by every Government on the Globe, and prepared and willing to redress, with the whole power of the Nation, and indignity or injury, inflicted by the proudest Power ~~of~~ earth upon the humblest citizens of South Carolina, or any other State.

How shall we preserve this Union, founded by labors and prayers by our ancestors and cemented with their precious blood?

Each one of us has his part to perform in this labor of love, and each of you has responsibilities connected with it, as I myself have.

Upon each private citizen devolves that duty so earnestly pointed out by the Father of his country of Christian, by every word and deed, and