

unchangeable duration to it, and promising indignantly upon each attempt to destroy it.

Upon those in official position is imposed the responsible task of so exercising the power committed to them, that those who would drive us into long and war and misery, shall derive no assistance in their mistaken and criminal course from those who ought to apprise them.

It is unnecessary for me to make extravagant professions of devotion to the South. Such protestations may be necessary from imported Northern politicians, who, by indirect abuse of their vote to their brethren, and truckling flattery of the Southern people, have worked themselves, and are hoping still further to work themselves into power at the South. I am a Marylander by birth, and descent, and by a residence of more than sixty years, every dollar of property I own is invested in this State. I am a slaveholder, not by accident but by purchase, out of the hard earnings of a long life of toil. I have not a conviction or prejudice which is not in favor of my native State. I have never lived and should be sorry to be obliged to live, in a state where slavery does not exist, and I never will ~~do so~~ if I can avoid it. Whatever would impair the rights of slaveholders in Maryland, would equally injure me, and the instinct of self interest, if no higher motive would impel me to stand by the South while life shall last. With these feelings and under a conscientious sense of my obligations, before God and man, I have calmly examined my duty in this emergency.

Two courses were before me. The one was to suffer myself to be hurried from among into the turmoil of the political movements of the day, without any effort to subdue its violence, and joining in the cry of disunion, to allow Maryland to slide into the arms of the seceding States.

This course would have been by far the easier, the most to find favor with the floating mass of noisy politicians, who can only breathe with comfort in an atmosphere heavy with discord and excitement.

It would have secured me the ephemeral outward popularity of the day, and might have sponged my humble name on many an execration and slander which the advocates of this policy have heaped upon it. But I most solemnly believe that it would have brought ruin upon my country; and I would rather die a thousand deaths than be instrumental in accomplishing such a result. I therefore adopted the other course - to wait with calmness the progress of events - to remember my joint obligations to the Constitution of the United States, and of Maryland's