

both of which I have repeatedly sworn to support
 and I must try to allay that fearful excitement,
 which was threatening to undermine our country,
 that sacred palladium of our liberties, committed
 to us by the Great Father of the Republic, who
 has raised us to be a Power among the Nations, and
 which is so anxiously cherished by the people of Mary-
 land. Were that the adoption of this course would
 bring upon me violent abuse, subject me to slan-
 derous reports from those whose particular schemes
 it might frustrate, and, what I dread of all things,
 would subject me to the censure of good men
 whose convictions on the subject might be dif-
 ferent from my own. Believing that the interests
 of Maryland were bound up with those of the broader
 Slaveholding States I have been engaged, for months
 past, in a full interchange of views with the Governors
 of Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri, with
 a view to concerted action upon our part. These consul-
 tations, which are still in progress, I feel justified
 in saying, having resulted in good, so that when the
 proper time for action arrives, these Sister States, bound
 up in a common destiny, will, I trust, be prepared to
 act together. I have been urged by a considerable
 number of citizens to convene the Legislature in special
 session, on the proper measure to be adopted at this
 time. After ~~most~~ anxious and conscientious
 consideration of the question I have failed to be
 convinced of the necessity or propriety of such a
 course. The Constitution, in entrusting a discretionary
 power to the Governor of calling such session, never
 designed that he should act in so serious a matter,
 upon the judgment or convictions of other men, and
 in opposition to the clear and unbiased dictates of his
 own conscience. He was not intended to be a mere mach-
 ine, when others should deem it necessary, although
 he himself might feel morally certain that it
 would be unwise and dangerous. I have therefore
 felt obliged to decide this question for myself,
 subject to the dread responsibilities which attach
 to those who corruptly, or against their judgments,
 violate an official oath.

I have been forcibly impressed with the fact, in
 considering this question, that every Division
 in our country, and a word to our shame be it spoken,
 there are some such divisions, is an earnest
 advocate for the immediate call of the Legislature.

One of the papers of to-day contains a report
 of the proceedings at a meeting which adopted a resolution
 in favor of immediate session, which was warmly
 advocated by the present speaker of the House of
 Delegates, and the last of the series of resolutions,