

direct the appointment of a committee to urge upon me to convene that House of Delegates forthwith.

It seems to me that a measure thus earnestly advocated by those who are bent upon the destruction of one of the Union, and the happiness of our State can hardly be the proper means of preserving both. I have hitherto forbore to dwell particularly upon an objection to this measure which deserves to be maturely weighed in a crisis like this, when the people are ill prepared to bear increased burdens. It is never the less proper that you should be informed that on the first of October there was a deficit in the State Treasury of at least fifty thousand dollars and that the Treasury officers have been repeatedly without the means of paying drafts upon it, in consequence of the appropriations made by the last Legislature, a thing but the most rigid economy and careful management can enable the Treasury to pay the April interest upon the State debt. Maryland knows something of heavy taxation, for she has borne it heroically until she is just beginning to relieve herself from its crushing weight. What her people would bear it again without a murmur, if they were convinced of its necessity, I will know; but should not our past experience warn us against incurring further burdens, unless they are positively required by our honor. Especially, should we not avoid it, if it be probable that the consequence of this renewed taxation should be to secure groans and sufferings for the people of the State? What could the Legislature do in this crisis, if convened, to remove the present troubles which beset the Union? We are told by the leading spirits in the South Carolina Convention, that neither the election of Mr. Lincoln or the non-execution of the Fugitive Slave Law, nor both combined, constituted their grievances.

They declare that the real cause of their discontent dates as far back as eighteen hundred and thirty three. Maryland, and every other State in the Union, with united voice then declared that cause insufficient to justify the course of South Carolina.

Can it be expected that this people who then unanimously supported the course of General Jackson, will now yield their opinions at the bidding of modern secessionists?

I have been told that the position of Maryland should be defined, so that both sections can understand it.

Do any really understand her position?