

be the chief sufferers. To you, the workingmen of Maryland, who must carry the musket and endure the real hardships of the war, they look for protection.

The people of Maryland, if left to themselves, would decide, with scarcely an exception, that there is nothing in the present cause of complaint to justify immediate secession; and yet, against our judgement, and even convictions of duty, we are to be precipitated into the Revolution because South Carolina thinks differently. Are we not equals? Can she have her opinions control our actions? After we have solemnly decided for ourselves, as every man of you must do, are we to be forced to yield our opinions to those of another State; and thus, in effect, obey her mandates? She refused to wait for our counsel, are we bound to obey her commands?

My countrymen, if you are the true descendants of those who have adorned glorious the annals of our early history, is it an insult to you, to intimate that you cannot be trusted with time for deliberation? or that your courage would ooze out and be exhausted, unless you are forced to act in this matter without time for reflection?

Are you to be alarmed with the argument that unless you join in this secession, at once, you may be discarded by your Southern Sisters?

They would always be glad enough to have with them our noble State, with its commercial, agricultural and mineral wealth, with its hardy, brave people. The language of menace and threats is no argument to prevail with these.

I firmly believe that the salvation of the Union depends upon the border slave States. Without them, the cotton States could never command the influence and credit and men essential to their existence as a nation. Without them the Northern half of the Republic would be shorn of its power and influence. Within the Union, I firmly believe we can secure guarantees for our protection, which will remove these distressing causes of irritation.

If we find hereafter that the North shall, after due deliberation, refuse to join them, we will, in a united body, demand and receive a fair division of the national domain. We claim an equal share in the territories, let us not abandon the whole of them by seceding - we claim the full execution of the fugitive slave law. Let us not annul that law entirely, by leaving the Union, and thus virtually bringing ~~Canada~~ down to our borders.