

time to enable me to communicate the same to the Convention of the State of Alabama to be held on Monday the 7th day of January next. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed in the City of Montgomery, this 11th day of December A.D. 1860.

J. B. Moore

Montgomery Ala.  
Dec. 25th 1860

Sir:

The Governor of the sovereign State of Alabama has appointed me a Commissioner to the sovereign State of Maryland, "to consult and advise with the Governor and Legislature thereof," as to what is best to be done to protect the rights, interests and honor of the slave holding States, "menaced and endangered by recent political events."

Having watched with painful anxiety the growth, power and encroachments of anti-slaveryism, and anticipating for the party, held together by this sentiment of hostility to the rights and institutions of the South, a probable success, (too fatally realized) in the then approaching Presidential election, the General Assembly of Alabama, on the 24th of February, 1860 adopted joint resolutions, providing, on the happening of such a contingency, for a convention of the state, "to consider, determine and do whatever the rights, interests and honor of Alabama require to be done for their protection."

In accordance with this authority, the Governor has called a convention to meet on the 7th of January 1861 and on the 24th inst. delegates were elected to that body.

Not content with this simple but significant act of asserting the sovereignty of the people, the State affixed her vicarious and unalienated rights ofcession from the Confederacy, and ultimated that continued and increasingly violent assaults upon her rights and equality might "constrain her to a reluctant but early exercise of that invaluable right."

Recognising the common interests and destiny of all the States, holding property in the labor of Africans, and "anxiously desiring their cooperation in a struggle which perils all they hold most dear," Alabama pleads herself to a "cordial participation in any and every effort, which in her judgment, will protect the Common Safety, advance the Common interests and serve the Common Cause."

To secure concert and effective co-operation between Maryland and Alabama is the object of my mission. Under our federative system, each state, being