

necessarily the sole judge of the extent of powers delegated to the General Agent and controlling the allegiance of her citizens, must decide for herself, in case of wrong, upon the mode and manner of redress. Within the Union, the States have absolutely prohibited themselves from entering into treaties, alliances or confederations and have made the assent of Congress a condition precedent to their entering into agreements or compacts with other States. This Constitutional inhibition has been construed to include "every agreement, written or verbal, formal or informal, positive or implied, by the mutual understanding of the parties". Without endorsing this sweeping judicial dictum, it will be conceded that if the grievance or apprehensions of danger be so great as to render necessary or advisable a withdrawal from the Confederacy, there can be between the States, similarly imperilled, prior to separation, only an informal understanding, for prospective concert and federation. To enter into a binding "agreement" or "compact" would violate the Constitution, and the South should be careful not to part with her distinguishing glory of having never, under the most aggravating provocations, departed from the strictest requirements of the Federal Covenant, nor supported any proposition impinging upon the essential equality of the Co-States. It is nevertheless the highest dictate of wisdom and patriotism to secure, so far as can be Constitutionally done, "a mutual league, united thoughts and counsels", between those whose hopes and hazards are alike joined in the enterprise of accomplishing deliverance from abolition domination.

To your Excellency or to intelligent a body as the Legislature of Maryland, it would be superfluous to enter into an elaborate statement of the policy and purposes of the Party, which, by the recent election, will soon have the control of the General Government.

The bare fact, that the party is sectional and hostile to the South, is a full justification for the precautionary steps taken by Alabama to provide for the escape of her citizens from the peril and dishonor of submission to its rule. Superadd to this sectional hostility the fanaticism of a sentiment, which has become a controlling political force, giving ascendancy in every Southern State, and the avowed purposes as disclosed in party creeds, declarations of Editors and utterances of Representative men - of securing the diminution of slavery in the States and placing it in the course of ultimate extinction, and the South would merit the punishment of the simple if she passed on and provided no security against the imminent danger.