

their steps! Then why, as state after state has fallen from the Union — as star after star has been blotted from their flag, have they not long ere this, given us an earnest of their desire for Conciliation and Compromise, with a Commanding majority in both branches of the National Legislature, the Northern States have failed and refused to take any action which would lead to the least surrender of their treasonable design, or afford the slightest encouragement to the Southern minds, of their willingness to perform in good faith their constitutional obligations — weeks and months have been passed in the Federal Capitol by the Representatives of the Nation and not a single indication of returning wisdom has been given to our people.

And while, the whole powers of the Federal Government have been taxed to their utmost limits, in efforts to intimidate and coerce the Southern people — The subject of their grievances has been kept buried in the Committee rooms of both houses of Congress, while day after day have our Representatives urged — implored, immediate and pacific action. The Executive at Washington, as the storm gathered, close and thick around him, has discarded his long tried and faithful advisers, and has called to the Supreme Control of affairs both civil and military, a disappointed, ambitious, Military Chieftain, whose only merit for such a trust is his partiality for Soup and Slaughter and his hatred of Southerners and Slavery,

And even now when seven Sovereign States have withdrawn from all Connection with the Federal Government — when the entire South is alarmed and irritated, by the success of the Republicans, they attempt to allay their fears, and quiet their apprehensions, by a display of Military force at and around the Capitol, and the adjoining states of Maryland and Virginia, wholly incompatible with the safety of these states and utterly destructive of their liberties.

These are the overtures of peace extended to us now by the Northern Federal Union — Scott and Scorpions, Cannon and Cartridges!

But could the South in safety again rely upon the pledges of the North, were they in the possibility of events to be offered anew to us. What paper writing more solemn, what instrument so sacred — what Compact so clear, what compromise so just, as the Constitution of the United States? Yet they have violated its spirit, broken its letter, and destroyed its vitality, by what words can such a people be held? They ignore the Bible, violate oaths, nullify laws and Pharisaiically call upon Jehovah to guide and support them in their infamous course.

These are a few only of a long series of acts of hostility to the institutions of her people that have forced the