

Nation. Sad experience has demonstrated the entire fallacy of this supposition as applied to the territory now represented.— Our position has proved to be altogether unnatural; we have surrendered the inestimable privilege of self-government without receiving even the mess of pottage in exchange for our birthright; we pine under the neglect of an irresponsible Congress of strangers, who cannot know or sympathize with our wants and will not stretch out a ministering hand to our relief; and we yearn to be restored to the protection and fostering care of our natural parent.

To the State of Maryland the measure offers a considerable accession of territory with a present moral and industrious population of about ten thousand souls, and a valuable port, the only eligible one that the State can ever command on the tide water of the Potomac. This port is situated at the termination of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. It holds the keys of that great work, and through it, must always command a large share of tributary inland commerce, that can be secured to the State through no other channel. It possesses an almost unlimited water power, most conveniently situated for manufacturing purposes, such as the State can no where else command; in itself an element of wealth of inestimable value, and especially of vast importance to the State in its competition for the commerce of the West. In commerce and in population this city would always be the second in the State; whilst under the fostering care of an interested legislation, it may be made to rank in manufactures among the first in the Union.

The terms on which the assent of the State to the measure of Retrocession is sought, will not, it is believed, be considered unreasonable. They are comprised in the elementary principle of all beneficent government, that the administration of justice should be conveniently accessible to all. No unequal favor or authority is expected; it is not sought or desired to disturb the present balance of political power in the State, nor to interfere with the wise policy that so regulated it. The accomplishment of these terms we believe can be made easy and convenient; the mode we are content to leave to the parental affection and the wisdom of the State.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

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