

How have their sister States, in which slavery has ceased to exist, fulfilled *their* obligations under the Federal compact? Let the history of the last thirty or forty years, with its dark catalogue of aggressions upon the constitutional rights of the South be appealed to, for the answer. We shall not here enter into any detail of the multiplied acts of injustice to the South, that has marked that era in our political history; but shall confine ourselves to a mere reference to some of them, which, in consequence of their prominence, stand out in bold relief before the nation and the world. Among these we may refer to the steady resistance offered by the North to the admission of new States into the Union, unless those States would forego their constitutional right of deciding upon their own domestic institutions, and conform their governmental systems to Northern views and Northern interests; to the constant, and in many cases, successful efforts to exclude the citizens of the slave States from any enjoyment of the rights guaranteed by the 3d section of the 4th article of the Constitution, (which grants to *all* citizens of the Union an equal right to occupy the public territories,) by denying to the inhabitants of those territories the privilege of being governed by laws of their own adoption; to the systematic attempts made to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, which, if successful, it was notoriously understood, was but the prelude to a demand for its entire abolition in all the States and Territories of the Union, and which was regarded by the North as the entering wedge to that grand *finale* of their hopes of sectional aggrandizement; to the open and diabolical efforts of Northern fanatics to excite the slaves of the South to insurrection, and the indiscriminate massacre of the white race; and last, though not least, to the open repudiation by some of the free States, of the 2d section of the 4th article of the Constitution, by a series of legislation intended to nullify and obstruct the execution of laws enacted by Congress, in obedience to the requirements of that section, for the recovery of "fugitives from service or labor." From these numerous acts of injustice and outrage upon the chartered rights of the South, Maryland has suffered in common with her sisters of that section of the Union. Indeed, in consequence of her position as a *border* State, she has, perhaps, suffered more than any of them, so far as "fugitives from service or labor" were concerned. Yet, under all this accumulation of wrong and aggression, has she ever faltered in her fealty to the Union? Or has she ever hesitated to yield a loyal support and strict obedience to its Constitution and Laws? Even when, a few years since, the lamented Kennedy, (who went into the neighboring State of Pennsylvania, armed with the authority of the United States, to reclaim his fugitive slave,) was savagely butchered upon the very threshold of the Temple of Justice, and his property wrested from him after having just been restored to