

him by the *ministers of the law*, what was the course of Maryland? Did she, after a vain effort to obtain from Pennsylvania, restitution for the wrong done, endeavor, by seeking to establish a *new compact* with the States in which slavery existed, to obtain for her citizens that protection of life and property which, it appeared, the laws of the country and the justice of her sister State no longer afforded them?

Not so!—Confiding in the inherent justice of their Northern brethren, and that sober reflection would enable them to appreciate the priceless value of the Union, the continued existence of which would inevitably depend upon a rigid observance of its guarantees, she submitted in silence to this renewed infraction of her rights.

And when, ultimately, after hoping against hope, she saw the demon of fanaticism reigning triumphant at the North, whilst darkness and gloom rested upon the Southern horizon, whence the lurid clouds of disunion loomed up in threatening masses toward the political zenith, and the low mutterings of the coming tempest broke upon her startled ear as the death knell of Constitutional liberty, where was Maryland then in that terrible crisis of our country's fate? She was where she has ever been when our proud institutions have been endangered. With the banner of the Union reared proudly aloft, her voice was heard above the commotion of the political elements, cheering the friends of the Constitution in their noble efforts to stem the torrent of fanaticism on the one hand, and to roll back the stormy waves of disunion on the other.

Thus it has ever been with her in every crisis through which the nation has passed. Whenever danger threatened, either from foreign invasion or domestic dissension, her people, true to the principles of their fathers, have buried the memory of their wrongs in the grave of the past, and rallied, with a unanimity unequalled, to the support of their country and its holy institutions. And when peace would again smile upon the land, their voices were ever among the first to raise the loud anthem of thanksgiving to the Ruler of the Destinies of Nations for its return. It was with these patriotic feelings they welcomed the adoption by Congress, in 1850, of the celebrated "Compromise measures," which, it was supposed, would restore peace, harmony and prosperity to our distracted land. Those measures, although they conceded nothing to the South to which it was not already entitled under the guarantees of the federal Constitution, were regarded as forever settling the dangerous question of slavery, which had so often threatened the dismemberment of the Union. Hence, their ratification by the people of the several States was hailed in Maryland with a long and loud shout of acclaim, that went up from every hill-top and valley of the State, and was re-echoed from the rocky barriers of the Alleghanies to the wave washed shores of the Atlantic.