

guilty offenders against the laws of the nation, and by promptly crushing the demoniac spirit of fanaticism that had led to such disastrous results. Thus reassured, the people of Maryland returned to a sense of their duty as loyal and law-abiding citizens of the Republic, and calmly yet anxiously awaited the result of those legal investigations that were to determine what amount of protection and security were to be afforded them in the future by the laws of the Union, and the sense of justice and good faith of their sister State. Those results are before us in the acquittal of Castner Hanway, who, as leader of the murderous band of rebels, was indicted and tried for the crime of high treason against the United States; and the final discharge by the local authorities of Lancaster county, without even the formality of a trial, of all the miscreants engaged in the outrage, who, after the failure to convict for treason, had been remanded thither to be tried under the laws of Pennsylvania for murder and riot.

Thus has it again occurred, that the "word of promise spoken to the ear, has been broken to the hope" of the people of Maryland. Thus has their confident expectation that the majesty of their country's laws would be vindicated, the plighted faith of their sister State redeemed, and assurance of future security be afforded to themselves, been blighted in the very moment of its anticipated realization; and casting their eyes down the dark vista of coming time, nought, amid its dim shadows, is presented to their enquiring vision but the gloomy alternative of submitting their lives and property as the sport and plaything of faction and fanaticism, or of asserting, maintaining and defending their chartered rights *at any sacrifice, and at all hazards.*

It will be unnecessary for the committee to dwell upon the details of the trial of Hanway before the U. S. Circuit Court. The result of that trial, as well as of the legal investigations instituted before the local tribunals of Lancaster county, are possessed of no special interest to the people of Maryland, except in so far as they demonstrate the existence of facts, vastly important to them at the present, and which exercise even a more important bearing upon the future. So far as these investigations simply *affected the lives* of the wretches implicated, the citizens of this State felt indifferent to the result. The immolation of whole hecatombs of such vile and worthless creatures could not have atoned for the blood of our valued and lamented fellow citizen; and the remark of one of the counsel for the defence, that Maryland was represented in that prosecution, because she "thirsted for blood," was a *slander* as foul and uncalled for as it was insulting to the dignity of the State, and the intelligence and virtue of her people. But our citizens *have* felt a deep and absorbing interest in these trials, growing out of the *facts* they have been made to disclose, and which vitally affect them in their dearest rights and interests.

Now what are these facts; and how do they thus affect our