

facilities of trade, because the value of the property of the State is thus increased, and the basis of taxation, which is its legitimate source of revenue and power, correspondingly enlarged. This is, perhaps, the chief end to which the State should mainly look in her relations to these works. It may, indeed, be gravely considered whether any connection with such works is desirable by the State, other than such supervisory power as may be necessary to prevent the abuse or misapplication of corporate privileges.

The recent installation of Franklin Pierce as President of the Republic owing to the momentous issue supposed to be involved in the late Presidential canvass, was marked by an unusual exhibition of popular feeling, and furnished an occasion of sincere congratulation to every friend of the Union and the Constitution. To the manly utterance of the sound doctrines which characterized his inaugural address, the whole country signified its approval and acquiescence; my own judgment cordially endorsed the views there laid down as the basis of his administration, and with undiminished confidence in his determination sacredly to carry them out, I look forward to an able and patriotic administration of the general government.

I congratulate you, fellow-citizens, upon the harmonious settlement of those agitating questions which at one time threatened to disturb the peace of our country. My immediate predecessor was called to the discharge of delicate duties, incident to that agitation, by most distressing calamities, from a repetition of which I hope our future may be spared. It affords me much pleasure to bear my humble testimony to the ability, dignity and firmness which characterized the official conduct of our executive in relation to those deeply aggravated issues; the sentiments which actuated him were alike honorable to the State and to himself, and reflected truly the feelings of our people. They meet my own cordial approbation, and promptly on every similar occasion, during my official term, shall those principles be maintained.

The position of Maryland in connection with the discussion of the slavery question is one of serious import. Being in this relation a border State, she is so situated as to be peculiarly liable to the devastating consequences of fanatical forays upon her rights of property. Constantly exposed to the insulting menaces of those who ruthlessly aim at the accomplishment of their wild schemes, and hourly in danger of losses from the incursions of insidious foes, by her contiguity to the free States, and from time to time challenged by solemn provocations to deeds of vengeance, her people have exhibited a magnanimity and patriotism worthy the highest praise. Partaking largely of the chivalric character of their Southern brethren, and keenly sensitive to any infringement of their constitutional rights, they have calmly and patiently, time and again, submitted to wrongs and insults at the hands of a few misguided zealots, for the sake of peace and fraternal relations with her sister States.

Maryland has never sympathized with the foes of the Union in