

any quarter; she will stand by the Constitution to the last. But she will always firmly insist on a strict interpretation of that instrument in just accordance with the established views of its illustrious founders.

The reserved rights of the States must not be lost by a loose construction of the sacred compact at the hands of the Federal Government. Herein lies the whole danger of our existence as a nation. Devotion to the Union must imply a devotion to the constitution in all its parts, and strictly in compliance with all its compromises. To profess respect for the Union without a sacred observance in good faith of all the terms of the constitution, is nothing less than treason in its most dangerous and insidious form.

Happily for us all, the immediate dangers which threatened our confederacy—which shook the hearts of the stearest patriots, and which stirred the souls of our strong men to high and noble deeds, have, by the measures of the compromise, been averted. But the seeds of disunion are not all decayed. Their bitter fruits may still be forced to our lips, if a wanton forfeiture of the obligations of the federal compact be permitted. A faithful adherence to the inviolable terms of the constitution, and an unfaltering protection of the States in the enjoyment of every right guaranteed to them, is the only infallible policy which will protect us against the enemies of the Union, under whatever name, and secure to us as a nation the enjoyment of those blessings which are so obviously held in store for us by the future.

I cannot conclude without giving emphatic expression to the high sense I entertain of the importance of preserving the good faith of the State sacred and inviolate. To do this effectually, we should maintain a just economy in public expenditures; and honestly apply, without improper diversion, all the resources set apart by our laws for the payment of our debt. The people may always be relied upon to bear their full share of the public burden, whenever the interest and honor of the State demand it; we should not, from an unmanly restiveness under temporary sacrifice for the public good, further lessen our annual income, while so large an amount of the public debt remains unpaid. This policy would, in my judgment, meet the public approbation, and at the same time promote the solid interests of that steadily expanding trade and commerce which the enterprise of our citizens as well as the government of our State have for so many years sedulously labored to develop. Our commerce, manufactures and mechanic arts—our mines, canals and roads—our improved agriculture—have wonderfully added to the aggregate wealth of the State during the last few years. To conduct them with profit and advantage, large capital is not only becoming more and more desirable, but absolutely indispensable; it is due to these great interests, as well as to ourselves, that no suspicion or doubt should be felt anywhere of the resolute purpose of the State at any sacrifice to discharge fully all her obligations.

I have thought proper, fellow-citizens, thus briefly to enunciate