

unambiguous phrases, meaning precisely what they say, incapable of being construed in one sense in the North, and in another sense in the South ; they flatter no party's prejudices, nor compromise with any party's power, but simply and truly speak the deep convictions of the Native Republican sentiment, in which our free institutions had their birth, and by which alone they are to be preserved. These principles have been discussed and determined upon in a thousand open meetings of the people of Maryland. Their advocates have been confronted with opponents in free latitude of debate, and judgment has been pronounced by overwhelming majorities, which are now visibly represented in the Legislature.

When, therefore, the Governor has uttered his complaint to this General Assembly, he not only arraigns the loyalty of the people's representatives, but he arraigns the people themselves, and charges upon them a moral treason in harboring thoughts and purposes hostile to their own freedom, and his opinion of blacker guilt than the deadly designs of abolitionism.

The authority of the Governor to communicate with the Legislature by an official message, is derived from the 18th section of the 2d Article of the Constitution, which makes it his duty "from time to time to inform the Legislature of the condition of the State, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he may judge necessary and expedient." The Committee, in view of this constitutional duty, are compelled to infer that the Governor's purpose in bringing the subject of their present inquiry to the notice of the Legislature, was to invoke their deliberations to the necessity of adopting some measure for the suppression of the Societies to which he refers. It is, besides, but respectful to the high station which he occupies, to suppose that he was not actuated by an idle desire to indulge in mere partisan declamation against political opponents, nor to use the privilege of his office to excite the popular odium against those with whom it is his misfortune to differ in reference to great questions touching the administration of the public affairs.

Giving the Governor, therefore, credit for a sincere and earnest purpose to call for the intervention of the Legislature through its power to investigate these alleged abuses, and correct them, by proper and efficient laws, the Committee are forced to conclude