

on land and sea has been seized and sacrificed under circumstances that must characterize the proceedings as mere acts of wanton spoliation. Our own State has suffered seriously by injuries thus inflicted, and our great lines of internal improvement have not only been effectually interrupted, but when that interruption was complete, and the necessities of war no longer palliated the proceeding, the work of destruction has been continued until property to the amount of many thousands has been ruthlessly sacrificed. Not only the property but the persons of our citizens have been made the subject of these unprovoked aggressions; and at the very time that hundreds of refugees, late citizens of Virginia, driven by the most remorseless persecution from their own State, for no other cause than that they loved the Union too well to abjure it, sought and found shelter within our borders, our own citizens, wholly unconnected with any military organization, charged with no offence whatever, have been seized in their quiet homes by armed bands from the other side of the Potomac, put in irons, carried out of the State and committed to a felon's prison.

I should hardly think it necessary to advert to those outrages, now of such common occurrence wherever Secession bears sway, but for the fact that the Chief Magistrate of the State, the principal theatre of these enormities, the once proud now devastated Commonwealth of Virginia, in a recent remarkable message to her Legislature, indulges in lamentations over the condition of Maryland, and ventures to promise his aid "in effecting the deliverance of her people from the tyranny that now oppresses them." Well informed as we all are of the regions wherein tyranny has been busiest with its oppressions for the last nine months, notorious as is to every one the comparative condition at this moment of the people on the opposite sides of the Potomac, the derision which the affected commiseration excites, effectually precludes a more serious notice of it. We shall doubtless have ample time to realize the value of the proposed deliverance whilst Secession is shifting its "fighting line" from the Potomac to the Susquehanna.

If there is anything connected with Secession more grossly fallacious than its claim to be considered a constitutional right, it is, especially so far as Maryland is concerned, its adaptation as a remedy for existing evils. That we have endured heavy losses of slave property, that those losses have frequently occurred, under circumstances well calculated to irritate and provoke our people, no one, we presume, will deny. But even in moments of greatest exasperation, growing out of these grievances, it never entered into the imagination of any man in Maryland that such evils could be averted by a dissolution of the Union. Of all the thirty four States, ours should be the last to