

The Executive of our State, exerting his constitutional power, has thus far preserved us from internal strife, such as exists in other Central States, while the great body of the People elsewhere have voluntarily rushed to arms for the protection of the only temple of constitutional liberty now in existence. His judicious course, thus sanctioned, indicates that in the judgment of the people of this State, no part of this noble structure should be destroyed, but that our energies should be devoted to guard, preserve, and uphold it against internal as well as external foes.

Situated in the very heart of this great nation, Maryland must necessarily exercise a powerful influence on the conduct of the respective parties to this unhappy fraternal contest. A mild and conservative course may do much to allay embittered feelings and re-produce in the minds of men all over the country a sense of the importance of that full, fair, and honest recognition of constitutional rights, so essential to the unity and perpetuity of our National as well as State Governments.

As your presiding officer, I beseech cultivation of the most enlarged patriotic feelings, such as animated the early patriots of the State, the companions in arms, the friends of that illustrious patriot, the crowning act of whose life in this Chamber, admonishes us how utterly unworthy are all selfish, partisan purposes, compared with our country's welfare and our country's good.

Let us cherish his oft-repeated warnings against sectional strife and geographical parties. The scenes daily transpiring in our Southern sister States, strongly impress us with the truth of the motto "United we stand—divided we fall," threatening as they do, the dismemberment of this great nation and the destruction of the most cherished rights of man.

Be prudent—firm—decided. Maryland's position is that of a loyal State. Her will must be faithfully reflected in the enactment of laws, that will cause her safety to be no longer endangered by fomenters of civil discord or aiders and abettors those who seek for partisan purposes to destroy a Constitution formed by the wisdom of our fathers and a Union cemented by their blood.

Standing as peers in the Senatorial Chamber I shall endeavor to administer this Office with courtesy, avoiding all partisan considerations.

Thanking you for this marked manifestation of your confidence, I now assume the duties of the Chair, trusting that our mutual consultations may be directed to the welfare of our beloved State and the perpetuity of that Union trans-