

expressly by the letter of the Constitution, unauthorised by its spirit, inconsistent with every principle on which it was founded, and destructive of the great object for which it was formed—and that if any State, regardless of the Constitutional remedies which are afforded for every grievance and oppression, should attempt to withdraw from the Union, it is the right and duty of the General Government, to protect itself and the other States from the fatal consequences of any such attempt.”

And although we had just emerged from an animated Presidential contest, in which the people of Maryland were nearly equally divided, and party spirit displayed its usual influence in our legislative assemblies, no such spirit in those days was suffered to encourage a blow aimed at the integrity of the Union; and the House of Delegates passed these resolutions with but *one* dissenting vote. The manifest aversion, therefore, of Southern sympathisers to the title of Secessionists, is but a proper acknowledgment of that practical common sense which, with a few exceptions, has heretofore marked the course of our public men in their construction of the Constitution.

We have been at all times, and are still as jealously alive as any people to all the rights which, under our system of Government, justly belong to our State; but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that there are other rights from which all the States are as positively excluded. And when the Constitution provides, as it does, that “no State shall enter into any alliance, treaty or confederation, grant letters of marque and reprisal, enter into any agreement or compact with another State,” and “that the Constitution and Laws, made in pursuance of it shall be the supreme law of the land, and the Judges of every State be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution and Laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding;” no sophistry has been ever yet invented under the guise of State sovereignty or a supreme State allegiance that could so distort these plain provisions as to make them, in our view, susceptible of two interpretations.

Starting, therefore, as Secession does, in the face of objections so unanswerable that its acknowledged allies are constrained to disavow it, it can hardly surprise us to see it seek to establish its power by a resort to means even more objectionable still.

Such has been systematically its course; its leaders, not content with involving us in the unavoidable calamities of a causeless and unnatural war, have aggravated these calamities by the manner in which they wage it. Private property