

It is impossible, therefore, to believe that a policy fraught with such incalculable mischief to the cause of the Constitution can find any advocates in an Administration whose course thus far, whether as regards our domestic or foreign relations, has been distinguished by its prudence, patriotism and ability.

Nor is this movement, I believe, to be considered as expressing, to any great extent, the sentiments of the Republican party; but, to my mind, it seems rather a sort of dying struggle of a desperate minority, the last spasm of an expiring faction, premonitory of its dissolution.

Assuming, therefore, as I think we safely may, that the Government, in the conduct of this war, will adhere to the policy which has secured, to such an extent, the confidence of the country, it becomes us to consider how we can most effectually aid in the work it has in hand. The local situation of our State, encircling as it does the Federal Capital, makes it the first object of attack, and devolves on us the duty of being foremost in its defence.

One of the most urgent of the duties claiming your immediate attention will be the thorough reorganization of the whole military system of the State. The profound peace we have enjoyed for nearly half a century has not been favorable to a proper development of that important branch of the public service. The Constitution of the State has made it "the duty of the Legislature to pass laws for the effectual encouragement of volunteer corps," and there never was a time when that duty was so imperative as at present; nor can any means be suggested better calculated to meet, on our part, the exigencies of the crisis than a prompt and liberal provision for that object.

I trust that no consideration of the repose we at present enjoy, nor any apparent acquiescence of the Secessionists in the result of our recent election, will prevent you from providing, by every proper means, against any contrivance they may be expected to adopt. We have seen that in the message of the Governor of Virginia, already referred to, he declares to the Legislature that their "possession of Maryland is indispensable," and that "thousands will welcome them to the State and flock to the standard of the Southern Confederacy."

Whilst in Kentucky—that gallant State, always united to us by an apparent identity of political principles and attachments, but never so endeared to us as at present,—a few men collected in an extreme corner of the State, in defiance of a Union majority largely exceeding our own, have inaugurated, what they call, a Provisional Government, as preliminary to the solemn mockery of admitting her into the same apocryphal