

Government. But this hatred, bitterness, and persecution have not yet culminated in bloodshed. The tread of hostile armies has not interfered with the calling of the husbandman, but the earth has yielded more bountifully than ever before.

If the thunders of artillery can be heard upon our borders, if our industrial pursuits have been prostrated to some extent by the national calamity, we have yet had peace in our midst. By the blessing of Heaven we have been spared the dreadful evils and horrors inseparably connected with war. For all this we have abundant reason to be thankful.

And in view of this we can yet afford to pardon those who shall now cease from laboring, with a zeal worthy of a better cause, to stir up discord within our State, to array brother against brother, and son against father.

It is with you to efface whatever of disloyalty has appeared upon our Legislative records. It is also with you to prove that Maryland is not only loyal but patriotic.

Whatever aid we can afford the Federal Government should be offered liberally, promptly, ungrudgingly. The perpetuity of the Government is at stake. Maryland wishes to do her whole duty, and her loyal sons have placed her honor in your keeping. I know you will not betray that trust.

May Heaven direct your labors, and may the day be not far distant when this parricidal war shall cease; when, in peace, the morning sun shall gild the bright folds of our flag again proudly floating in every State of a newly and more strongly cemented Union!

THOS. H. HICKS.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }  
December 4, 1861. }