

of unscrupulous politicians whose frozen brains have been unceasingly engaged in the preparation of ceremonies for the grand carnival of high treason; and which culminated a little more than three years ago in open revolt and rebellion by eleven States of the Federal Government.

Since that time, sir, the established Government of our fathers, the wisest and best ever devised and framed by mortal men, has been involved in a wicked and causeless civil war, forced upon it by a set of reckless demagogues of the South, the sceptre of whose political power had been wrested from them by the voice of an hitherto generous and confiding people, fairly expressed in accordance with the Constitution and the laws, through the medium of the ballot-box. The patriotic old State of Maryland, for a brief period, seemed to sympathize, falter and waver amidst this fearful conflict; her future destiny for a while appeared uncertain. The ever memorable events of the 19th of April, in the city of Baltimore, the action and deliberations of her Legislature, assembled in Frederick, caused the deepest and most painful sensations on the part of the true friends of the Union and Government. Emissaries, in the persons of commissioners, from her wayward sisters Virginia and Mississippi, were within her borders, tempting her loyalty—chanting in dulcet strains the seductive, syren song of secession and treason—and portraying in bright and dazzling colors, the fair and beautiful proportions of a future great and glorious Southern Confederacy; where cotton would be king, and bring as humble supplicants to his feet the proud and haughty nations of the earth. And where Jefferson Davis, fresh from the battle fields of Mexico, with the laurels of victory upon his brow, would reign supreme over the dominions of a purely slave aristocracy, in the form of an independent Southern Confederacy.

These bold and traitorous emissaries of Virginia and Mississippi, in obedience to the highest of their master and chief, were most profligate in the dispensation of their promised blessings and favors, if their favorite sister, Maryland, would only yield to their caresses, and embrace their overtures; sever her moorings and abjure her allegiance to this hateful Yankee Government, where wooden nutmegs, wooden hams, and codfish and potatoes were predominant, and constituted the principal articles of commercial intercourse. Join her fortune and future destiny with that galaxy of Southern States, the *na plus ultra* of chivalry, the Athens of America, the Eden of the New World, where over-partial nature, in the plenitude of her generosity, had dispensed with a lavish hand her choicest blessings.

In addition, Mr. President, to these bright and beautiful allurements, there was another

picture no less attractive. The ancient city, bearing the illustrious name of the Father of his Country, and encircling within its corporate limits the capitol of the nation, its archives, and all the various departments of the Government, embracing also that pure and massive edifice known as the White House, in which, on a certain contingency, would preside with all the pomp and splendor of royalty, the chief of that new slave aristocracy, donned "the Confederate States of America." Sir, although for a while clouds, shadows and darkness seemed to hover over and around us, veiling the temple of liberty, threatening to burst with all the fury of a merciless storm; when, too, the tempestuous and raging waves of secession were beating fierce and high within the bosom of her less prudent and erring sister, Virginia, well nigh reaching her own hitherto quiet and peaceful borders; and when, too, the stoutest hearts of her patriotic sons were appalled and dismayed at the sad and gloomy spectacle, there was still "a silver lining behind the cloud." By a wise and patriotic exercise of executive authority, supported and sustained by the arm of the Federal Government, the tide of secession was staid, and finally driven back, and proud old Maryland was rescued from the horrible vortex of perdition, and all the misery and destitution of her improvident, wayward sisters of the South, her reputation for loyalty and devotion to the Constitution and the Union fully vindicated and established, as was unquestionably illustrated through the medium of the ballot-box at the ensuing November election of 1861, resulting in the triumphant selection of the present able executive of the State, Governor Bradford, by the unparalleled majority of nearly thirty-two thousand, and the return of an entire Union Legislature, except from the counties of Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert.

Mr. BILLINGSLEY. That is so.

Mr. PURNELL. That is so, as the gentleman says. As was properly remarked a few days ago by that gentleman, at the extra session of 1861, and the regular session of 1862, there were but six members of the Legislature outside of the Union party.

I am not disposed, Mr. President, to pursue this branch of the subject any further; but will take occasion to remark in this connection, that the status of Maryland, in this sad and perilous conflict, was unmistakably defined; her devotion and loyalty to the Union and the Constitution fully tested and exemplified; like the young bride adorned for the bridegroom and with pure and spotless garments, unspotted and untarnished by the contaminating influence of the horrible heresy of secession, she arrayed herself in all the pride and grandeur of her ancient prestige, gracefully by the side of her other true and loyal sisters of the Union, in support of that