

"Proceed with your work," &c. Reg. of Debates, page 663.

Mr. RINGBROOK suggested that as this had already once appeared in the debates it should not be repeated, and

The President accordingly instructed the reporter to simply refer to it.

Mr. HARWOOD: I wish to say by way of personal explanation, that the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stockbridge) is right in saying that I united with several gentlemen in a memorial to Governor Hicks; and that it may be seen whether he is right in saying that I signed it as a Southern rights man, I will read that memorial. I will say, however, for myself, that when I signed it I did apprehend and fear an aggression on Southern rights; and I to-day realize my fears of Massachusetts' aggression on Maryland rights. I wish this memorial to go upon the record, and therefore I will read it:

*To His Excellency, Thomas H. Hicks, Governor of Maryland:*

"The undersigned, citizens of Maryland, would respectfully suggest to your Excellency, that the Legislature of the State should be forthwith convened, to consider of the present momentous crisis in the affairs of our country and to provide, if practicable, some remedy for the threatened danger. Already South Carolina may be considered to have severed the ties which bound her to the Federal Union, and other States are manifestly preparing to follow the lead of South Carolina, so that, without some restraining cause, the Government framed by the wisdom of our fathers, and to which we of Maryland have been taught to look as the palladium of our own and the hope of liberty to the world, will have been destroyed before the regular session of the Legislature, and consequently before Maryland can speak by her constituted authorities upon a subject so vital to her and to her people.

We think that Maryland, by her geographical position, and by her friendly relations with all her sister States, has, above all others at this time, the right to speak. She has the right to say to her Northern sisters—we are upon your border; and notwithstanding your non-observance of the guarantees of the Constitution, and the consequent loss of property by us, we have been faithful to the Constitution. We could say to them that we fully appreciate the blessings which have flowed from the establishment of the Union, and that we understand the evils which would follow its dissolution. We have the right to demand of them that they will each, at once, proclaim their intention forever hereafter to abide by the Constitution; that they will say to their Southern brethren that hereafter they will punish their own citizens for any violation of the constitutional compact by them; that they will hereafter com-

pensate their fellow citizens of the other States for all property lost by reason of the non-observance by their citizens of the Constitution and laws of the Federal Government.

Whilst Maryland would have the right thus to appeal to her Northern sisters, she would have the right to speak still more potentially to her sister States of the South—she should say to them, that they should remember that Maryland stands between them and danger; that they should not, without consultation with Maryland and the other slave States who have heretofore stood the brunt of Northern aggression, precipitate a dissolution of the Union—that they should remember that the secession from the Union of the extreme Southern States would place the border slave States in the unenviable attitude of being forced to choose, without consultation and beyond their control, either to remain in political affinity with the non-slaveholding States, without the protection which their association with the whole South affords to all; or to follow in their steps and break up the Government of the United States.

The people of Maryland would have the right to demand of her Southern sisters that they should pause in their proposed action until, by a convention of all the States, or otherwise, it can be ascertained:

1st. Whether all the States will guarantee to each protection from future sectional agitation.

2d. The absolute and efficient protection of the peculiar property of the South, and all the rights in reference thereto guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

It must be apparent to your Excellency that whilst the Legislature of Virginia, and most of the other States are about to assemble, that it is not only the right, but the duty of Maryland, to speak by her constituted authorities in this calamitous position of our common country; and in the opinion of the undersigned, it would be derogatory to the honor of our State, if she should alone permit this momentous question to be decided, without her voice being heard, and without an effort on her part to avert the impending danger.

We therefore, most respectfully, but urgently press upon your Excellency the propriety, and, as we think, the necessity of calling forthwith a special session of the Legislature.

(Signed,) THOMAS G. PRATT,  
SPRIGG HARWOOD,  
J. S. FRANKLIN,  
N. H. GREEN,  
LEWELLYN BOYLE,  
J. PINKNEY.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE: I thank the gentleman from Anne Arundel (Mr. Harwood) for pro-