

in bold relief, to challenge the wonder and admiration of the world. Here, the broad heritage of liberty is the birthright of the citizen. That precious inheritance, consecrated by the blood of the patriots of the Revolution, and regulated by a system of equal just and salutary laws, has descended in unbroken succession from generation to generation, not only unimpaired, but enlarged, beautified and improved. From a Confederacy of thirteen States and three millions of population, occupying a territory of three hundred and thirty thousand square miles, within less than three quarters of a century, that Confederacy has expanded into an Union of thirty sovereign republics, embracing an area of fourteen hundred thousand square miles, inhabited by a race of twenty millions of brave, energetic and enterprising freemen.

Nor do the remotest borders of these States, fix a limit to the territorial possessions of this mighty republic. Stretching far away to the West, beyond the shores of the Mississippi and the summits of the Rocky Mountains, it acknowledges no other bounds to its dominions than the breadth of a vast Continent, washed by the majestic waters of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Between these natural limits, and its northern and Southern frontiers, lies a Country of every variety of climate, soil and production; rich in all the exhaustless resources of agricultural, mineral, manufacturing and commercial wealth. Capable of sustaining and sustaining, at no remote day, to support a population of three hundred millions of men. In this Country, liberty has erected her chosen empire - the only land on earth, blessed with a free republican government, where the will of the majority, constitutionally expressed, is supreme - where all men are born free and equal, and where the individual security, personal liberty and private property of the citizen, are protected and guaranteed by laws of his own enactment, administered by agents of his own election. In such a Country, and under such a Constitution has our lot been cast; the one, replete with monuments of the mercy and goodness of God, and gifted with all the attributes of a great and powerful nation; the other, pregnant with proofs of the wisdom and foresight of its authors, and of the capacity of man, on the most extended surface, for self government, and the pursuit of rational and regulated freedom. Consequent upon a condition of things thus favorable and propitious, is the prevalence of universal prosperity in every portion of the Confederacy; and, no where have its evidences been more abundantly exhibited than in our own beloved State. Of a mild, genial and salubrious climate - a soil fertile, productive and of easy cultivation - a mountainous region remarkable for exhaustless deposits of iron, coal and other minerals - its valleys and low-lands intersected by navigable creeks, rivers and estuaries, upon Maryland, it may indeed be said that the favors of nature have been bestowed with a beautiful hand. Auxiliary to these natural advantages, works of art of unsurpassed magnificence have been undertaken and are in progress of completion, designed, not only, effectually to develop her own internal resources, but by opening to her borders the trade and travel of other sections of the Union, to pour into the lap of her commercial Metropolis, treasures to be diffused over every portion