

Missouri, New Hampshire and Vermont in relation to the subject of Slavery in the territories of the United States are herewith transmitted, and will be found to present the true issues between the Northern and Southern Sections of the Union upon that dangerous and threatening question, in a manner that cannot fail to command study to your most thoughtful consideration, and to elicit a solemn declaration of the policy which Maryland will feel bound to adopt, should a choice of alternatives be presented upon her. The dark and baleful spirit of abolitionism which has hitherto contributed so fearfully to alienate the affections of the people of these States to disturb the harmony and to endanger the permanence of the Union, is still progressing in its mad career unnumbered of the compromises which alone imparted vitality to the Constitution and regardless alike of the admonitions of patriotism, the dictates of justice and the equal and inalienable rights of all the members of this Confederacy. Concealing its lust for political power under the specious garb enlarged philanthropy, while maintaining upon the labor of the slave, it wages unceasing and relentless warfare against the rights of his master. What was once considered and treated as an impotent falling of locked or deluded fanatics, from the very impunity which a cautious forbearance too often affords, has now assumed the character of a formidable sectional organization, resolved, unless the signs of the times are strongly deceptive, not only to appropriate to its own exclusive use the common property of the United States, but by forcibly depriving the Southern States of all participation in its enjoyment, to disgrace and degrade them from an equal rank with the other States of the Union. The Constitution of the United States recognizes without limitation, the institution of domestic slavery, guarantees its existence and guarantees the right of the owner to the possession and service of the slave; and it cannot be doubted that if the power, now claimed to be exercised by Congress, to prohibit the emigration of the people of the slaveholding States, with their property and effects of all kinds to any territory owned by the United States, had been asserted at the time when the Constitution was submitted for ratification to the States, that instrument would not have been adopted nor could the Union have ever been formed. If the Union of the States, can only be preserved by an unconditional surrender of clear Constitutional rights secured to its members, if the Federal Government, instead of a system of liberty, equality and law, is to be forced into an empire of force, oppression and fraud then indeed, has the day arrived when the South at least must pause in sorrow and anguish to calculate its value. The crisis, though impending is not yet come and the evil hour of disunion, so much to be deprecated, may, it is devoutly to be hoped, be forever averted. Non-intervention in all the South had ever asked and however reasonable the request, it has been more than once extolled, if not indignantly refused. The time for reason and argument seems to have gone by and the perpetuity of this mighty Republic, with all the countless blessings which it is capable of imparting, must now rest upon the firm, united, temperate, but determined action of the Southern States; and to this end, it is believed, to be the duty of the representatives of the people of Maryland, to reflect the sentiments of their constituents, by the solemn declaration in advance of their Convention a palpable determination of this State, in the event of the passage by Congress of the "Ordnance Proviso" or any similar scheme, to make common cause with the South, and to resist to the end, the execution of a measure so