

overt rebellion on her part; whereas, the fugitive slave act, which was the only compromise measure (if such it can justly be called) acceded to by the North, as her share of mutual concessions, is operating, and to operate, daily, weekly, and for years; and may be nullified by fanatics and traitors, though comparatively few in number, through dupeness, indifference, or, possibly, a lack of moral courage, on the part of the great mass of Northern Unionists. Hence, I give it, as my most earnest and painful conviction, that the Union will be put in imminent jeopardy by any such dereliction of our Northern brethren; whilst I am confident that the main body of our Southern people would rest entirely satisfied, upon the basis of the compromise, with the assurance however, emphatically given, not only by public men, but, above all, by the altered tone of Northern sentiment, that, henceforth, we shall rest unmolested, in our constitutional rights, beneath our own vine and fig tree.

I am not unmindful of the recent demonstrations, at the North, in favor of the compromise. I have witnessed with infinite satisfaction, the bold patriotism of those, who had the courage to stem the torrent of fanaticism, in its widest and deepest channels. I am disposed to think that the general sentiment of the North is sound. - We are told so by her leading statesmen, and we must believe it to be so. But, the practical question is, shall Northern patriotism be active or passive? Will it organize its strength, and preserve the Union, by a rigid enforcement of Southern rights, as guaranteed by the Constitution and the Laws; or, will it endanger the Union, by permitting those rights to be violated with impunity? The answer to this question will most emphatically express the solution of the problem "how long can this Union last?" Let but the spirit of the illustrious Cads and Webster prevail, at the North, - let it be embodied into resolute action, - and the powers of the Earth can never shake one stone from the noble edifice, which our Fathers built; and cemented with their blood. And, shall it not be so? When the giants of the land, who have grown grey in partisan contests, on the hustings and in the halls of legislation, come out before the eyes of Christendom, and, shaking hands over the grave of Washington, merge all ancient feuds, in their higher devotion to the Constitution and the Union, - when intellects, which have flashed athwart each other's fiery orbit of ambition, with the fierce glare of comets, now softened by a new and more earnest instinct of patriotism, radiate a commingled light, for the guidance of a Nation, whose footsteps, like that of unconscious childhood, is straying carelessly along the giddy edge of the precipice, - when millions of hearts, long estranged by the bitter rivalry of parties, are clustering together, drawn by the attraction of a common peril, - oh! where is the man, so petrified and imbedded in prejudice, or so blinded by passion, as to pollute the air with the breath of treason? The voice of that man will never awaken the echoes of the western hills of old Maryland, nor mar the melody of the waves that lave her Southern shores. Maryland, united and loyal, will stand true to the Constitution. The malediction of posterity shall not rest upon a child of her. Neither shall the curse of her dead lives be heard in the night winds, uttering the everlasting "woe" against him, whose parricidal hand planted the dagger in the heart of his Country.

Should the dire calamities of disunion and civil war fall upon this Nation, in punishment of its ingratitude for the singular favors of Divine Providence, heretofore conferred upon it; should the hopes of mankind perish with the dismemberment of a Republic, brought to destruction (either United States can only be) by its own crimes, in contempt of the solemn mission which it has received, as the peaceful regenerator of the social and political condition of man; - let the blood be upon the hands of the guilty! Maryland with the blessings of God, shall preserve her conscience untarnished by the crime of this high treason to the cause of humanity.

But, let us hope for better things. Let us trust that wisdom, justice, and love of Country, will prevail, North and South. Let us rely, with an unbounded, but confident hope, upon the Union.