

Union in any quarter, she will stand by the  
Constitution to the last. But she will always  
insist on a strict interpretation of that  
instrument in ~~accordance~~ accordance with the  
established views of its illustrious founders.

The sacred rights of the States must not be lost  
by a loose construction of the sacred compact at  
the hands of the Federal Government. Herein  
lies the whole danger of our existence as a nation.  
Devotion to the Union must imply a devotion  
to the Constitution in all its parts and strictly in  
conformance with all its compromises. To profess  
respect for the Union without a sacred assurance  
in good faith of all the terms of the Constitution  
is nothing less than treason in its most dangerous  
and insidious form.

Happily for us all, the  
imminent dangers which threatened our  
confederacy, - which shook the hearts of the  
steepest patriots, and which stired the souls  
of our strong men to high and noble deeds, have  
by the measures of the compromise been averted.  
But the seeds of dissension are not all decayed;  
Their bitter fruits may still be forced to our lips, if  
a wanton forfeiture of the obligations of the  
Federal compact be permitted. A faithful  
adherence to the inviolable terms of the Consti-  
tution and an unflinching protection of the States  
in the enjoyment of every right guaranteed  
them, is the only infallible policy which will  
protect us against the enemies of the Union,  
under whatever name, and secure to us as a  
nation the enjoyment of those blessings which  
are so obviously held in store for us by the future.

I cannot conclude without giving emphatic  
expression to the high sense I entertain of  
the importance of preserving the good faith  
of the State sacred and inviolate. To do  
this effectually, we should maintain a  
just economy in public expenditures, and  
honestly apply without improper dissimulation,  
all the resources set on foot by our laws for  
the payment of ~~the~~ debts. The people may