

upon her most important interests, the value and very existence of a material part of her property, and her own security and peace, can come to no other conclusion than that for her people to declare unconditionally for the Union is as much an instance of self-preservation as of patriotic attachment to the principles of the Constitution.

It is not my purpose to detain you with a discussion of that fearful theory, worked to the aid of those who have inaugurated the seceding revolution and which under the title of secession claims the right of any State at any time and for any cause which she may declare sufficient to cancel all her obligations to the Federal Constitution and assume the exercise of powers which it emphatically prohibits. The notorious fact that even among those who most openly avow their sympathy with secession, there are but few anywhere to be found, who do not indignantly repudiate its name ought of itself to be sufficient to show that in Maryland at least no argument is necessary to overthrow this fallacy. She long since defined her position on this subject with a clearness and a unanimity that should have secured all of what might be expected of her now. When South Carolina thirty years ago by her nullification ordinance first formally put forth that pernicious dogma of State Supremacy, the Legislature of Maryland as soon as it was brought to their attention at their session of 1832 adopted resolutions clearly showing that we repudiated it then not less distinctly than we do to day. These resolutions declare "that the right to annul a law of the General Government assumed by one State is incompatible with the existence of the Union, contradicted expressly by the letter of the Constitution, unauthorized by its spirit, inconsistent with every principle on which it was founded and destructive of the great object for which it was formed; and that if any State, regardless of the Constitutional remedies which are afforded for every grievance and oppression should attempt to withdraw from the Union, it is the right and duty of the General Government to protect itself and the other States from the fatal consequences of any such attempt." And although we had just emerged from an animated Presidential contest in which the people of Maryland were nearly equally divided and party spirit displayed its usual influence in our legislative assemblies, no such spirit in those days was suffered to encourage a blow aimed at the integrity of the Union and the House of Delegates passed these resolutions with but one dissenting voice. The manifest aversion therefore of Southern Sympathizers to the title of Secessionists is but a proper acknowledgment of that practical common sense, which with a few exceptions has heretofore marked the course of our public men in their construction of the Constitution.

We have been at all times and are still as jealously alive as any people to all the rights which under our system of government justly belong to our State; but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that there are other rights from which all the States are as positively excluded. And when the Constitution provides as it does that "no State shall enter into alliance treaty or confederation, grant letters of marque and reprisal, enter into any agreement or compact with another State" and that the Constitution and laws made in pursuance of it shall be the supreme law of the land and the judges of every State be bound thereby anything in the Constitution and laws of