

any State to the contrary notwithstanding" no sophistry has ever yet been invented under the guise of State Sovereignty or a Supreme State allegiance that could so distort these plain provisions as to make them in our view susceptible of two interpretations. Standing therefore as Secession does in the face of objections so unanswerable, that <sup>its</sup> acknowledged allies are constrained to disavow it, it can hardly surprise us to see it seek to establish its power by a resort to means even more objectionable still. Such has been systematically its course; its leaders not content with involving us in the unavoidable calamities of a civil and unnatural war have aggravated these calamities by the manner in which they wage it. Private property on land and sea has been seized and sacrificed under circumstances that must characterize the proceedings as mere acts of wanton spoliation. Our own State has suffered seriously by injuries thus inflicted and our great lines of internal improvement have not only been effectually interrupted but when that interruption was complete and the necessities of war no longer palliated the proceeding, the work of destruction has been continued until property to the amount of many thousands has been ruthlessly sacrificed. Not only the property but the persons of our citizens, have been made the subject of these unprovoked aggressions; and at the very time that hundreds of refugees late citizens of Virginia driven by the most remorseless persecution from their own State, for no other cause than that they loved the Union too well to abandon it, sought and found shelter within our borders, our own citizens wholly unconnected with any military organization charged with no offence whatever have been seized in their quiet homes by armed bands from the other side of the Potomac, put in irons, carried out of the State and committed to a felon's prison.

I should hardly think it necessary to advert to those outrages, now of such common occurrence wherever Secession bears sway, but for the fact that the Chief Magistrate of the State the principal theatre of these enormities, the once proud now devastated Commonwealth of Virginia, in a recent remarkable message to her Legislature, indulges in lamentations over the condition of Maryland, and ventures to promise his aid "in effecting the deliverance of her people from the tyranny that now oppresses them". Well informed as we all are of the regions wherein tyranny has been busiest with its oppressions for the last nine months, notorious as is to every one the comparative condition at this moment of the people on the opposite sides of the Potomac, the derision which this affected commiseration excites, effectually precludes a more serious notice of it. We shall doubtless have ample time to realize the value of the proposed deliverance whilst Secession is shifting its "fighting line" from the Potomac to the Susquehanna.

If there is anything connected with Secession more grossly fallacious than its claim to be considered a constitutional right, it is, especially so far as Maryland is concerned, its adaptation as a remedy for existing evils. That we have endured heavy losses of slave property,