

that those losses have frequently occurred, under circumstances well calculated to irritate and provoke our people, no one, we presume, will deny. But even in moments of greatest exasperation, growing out of these grievances, it never entered into the imagination of any man in Maryland that such evils could be averted by a dissolution of the Union. Of all the thirty four states, ours should be the last to hearken to such counsels, and of all the interests which we have at stake, the one just referred to should be the first to deprecate them. I will not pause to enquire into the more extensive and universal class of calamities consequent upon a dissolution of the Union, in which this continent and the world to some extent would participate, but refer only to those more immediate household evils lying at the door of us of the Border States. As this Union now exists, Maryland is its very centre, connected by her railroads and rivers with all points of its extreme circumference; but divide it, by any line ever yet suggested, and from being the centre of a great nation, destined to become, in time, the mighty empire of the world, we are shifted to the outer verge of one of two rival and wrangling confederacies, harassed by perpetual causes of dispute, and necessarily subject by our position to bear the brunt of every collision in which they must speedily become involved.

But independently of these ordinary border feuds, the inseparable incident of all such contiguous communities, what would be our condition as a slave state upon the Border?

One great ultimatum which the Secessionists propose to accomplish, is a separate Slave Confederacy, embracing all the States where that institution at present exists, and embracing none others; and regarding the results of disunion in that aspect, and the new relations it would at once establish between us upon this and our neighbors upon the other side of the slave line, and who can avoid the conclusion that all the perils now supposed to threaten our slave property, and which it is proposed to avert by this division, would be multiplied a thousand fold the day that such a separation was consummated.

We are admonished by our Southern advisers that we must seek a security for this property; we are entreated by others nearer home to lay down our arms, accede to the proposals of the South and secure the blessings of a lasting peace; and so completely can Secession delude its victims, that the means by which both these ends, we are told, can be accomplished, is a division of the Republic. Not only so, but in running the line of that division we are sedulously to keep in view, as an imperative call, controlling course and distance, natural boundaries and all other considerations, that very subject-matter the fruitful source of our present troubles.