

to subject so skilfully shaped already into engines of mischief, by meddlers on both sides the line referred to, that a common country and a Constitution for which we professed a common reverence, could not save us from the implacable war that we now witness, is to become, we are asked to believe, a subject of indifference as soon as the contending sections are organized into separate Governments! Maryland and Pennsylvania, still as near together as ever, but allies no longer; the same sensitive subject of discord between them, without any common tie or Constitution by which that discord may be restrained or adjusted, and yet the imaginary <sup>line,</sup> which is still all that separates them, is to become, by some miraculous agency, hereafter a mighty barrier, across which the emissary of Northern fanaticism will never venture to set his foot.

Instead of these, the wildest of all fancies, being ever realized, should such a separation take place, the mind recoils from a contemplation of the feuds which would inevitably follow, such a partition — feuds embittered by mutual criminations and reminiscences perpetually rankling in the mind of each; the very first subject falling a sacrifice to their influence would be the very one for whose security the separation is prescribed. And whilst those inaugurating the reckless experiment, would be comparatively exempt from its disasters, we, upon whom they will be precipitated, will furnish but another illustration of the past history of the subject — they ever the loudest in complaints of aggression, and we the only ones to suffer by its infliction.

The institution of slavery, as we must be all aware, finds no support in the sympathy of foreign nations; on the contrary, we have had repeated proofs that public opinion there is stoutly arrayed against it. Its power to withstand this opposition, as it has hitherto successfully done, has been chiefly derived from the protection it has found under the shelter of a great, united, national government. Shall we, then, be guilty of the monstrous folly of dividing this nation, and adding to the foreign element of opposition to this institution the still more dangerous and proximate one incurred by the creation of a foreign government at our very threshold, and whose people will claim to charge to its account the national calamities to which it has been made subservient.

But it is giving to this rebellion a consideration to which it has no claim, to discuss its pretensions in connection with its assumed supervision of the interests of slavery. Such considerations could have had little or no share among the motives of those who inaugurated it; these leaders were too intelligent and astute to have overlooked the consequences to which I have referred, and must have