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WM. W. BALLARD, Editor.

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AN OLD POEM.

Who shall judge a man from manners?
Who shall know him by his dress?
Paupers may be fit for princes,
Princes fit for something less.
Crumpled shirt and dirty jacket
May be clothe the golden ore
Of the deepest thoughts and feelings—
Satin vests could do no more.
There are springs of crystal nectar
Hidden, crushed and overgrown;
God, who counts by souls, not dresses,
Loves and prospers you and me,
While he values thrones the highest
But as pebbles of the sea.

Man, upraised above his fellows,
Oft forgets his fellows the;
Masters, rulers, lords, remember
That your meanest hinds are men—
Men by labor, men by feeling,
Men by thought, men by fane.
Claiming equal rights to sunshine
In a man's ennobling name
There are foam embroidered oceans;
There are little weeded rills,
There are feeble inch-high saplings,
There are cedars on the hills;
God, who counts by souls, no stations,
Loves and prospers you and me,
For to him all vain distinctions
Are as pebbles in the sea.

Toiling hands alone are builders
Of a nation's wealth or fame;
Titled laziness is pensioned,
Fed and fattened on the same.
By the sweat of others' foreheads,
Living only to rejoice,
While the poor man's outraged freedom
Vainly lifteth up its voice.
Truth and justice are eternal,
Born with loveliness and light;
Secret wrongs shall never prosper
While there is a sunny right;
God, whose world-heard voice is singing
Boundless love to you and me,
Sinks oppression with its titles,
As the pebbles in the sea.

LETTER FROM COLEMAN YELLOTT, Esq., STATE SENATOR of BALTIMORE CITY, TO GOVERNOR HICKS.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 24, 1861.

To the Hon. Thos. Holliday Hicks, Governor of Maryland—Dear Sir:—While returning from Annapolis on Monday morning last, I read with some surprise an article in the Balt. Sun of that date, headed "Governor Hicks and the Legislature." That article contained the following extract from the report made by the Talbot county committee in regard to their recent interview with you:

"The Governor stated that from information on which he relied, and which was derived from sources not accessible to the people of the State, he was convinced that the Legislature, if convened, would at once declare in favor of the Southern States, and send as ambassadors to those States gentlemen who have been prominent in urging the call of the Legislature. That immediately on this declaration being made, the city of Washington would be taken by a body of 8,000 men now organized for that purpose. That civil war would be caused by this step, and would thus be brought about by convening the Legislature."

Presuming that the Talbot committee have reported you correctly, I feel it to be my duty, as one of your political and personal friends, to address you this letter, for the purpose of endeavoring to relieve your mind of an unfortunate illusion which I fear has caused you many sleepless nights.

If you are right in the opinion that the present Legislature, if convened, would assume and exercise the power of "fully committing this State to secession," then it was most wise and patriotic on your part to warn the people of their danger, and refuse to lend your agency in bringing about an extra session of *such* a Legislature! If the General Assembly of Maryland, "chosen eighteen months since," had assumed to exercise the power of annexing our State to a Southern confederacy, they would have been guilty of outrage upon the rights of the people, and a flagrant *usurpation*. They would have done what no Legislature of South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama or Florida dared to do; for in each of these States the Legislature merely passed an act calling a convention, so as to enable the *people* (through delegates chosen to such convention) to decide for themselves for or against secession, as they might prefer. The purport of all your recent published letters is to charge that the General Assembly of Md., if convened, would usurp powers, which in other States, have been exercised only by *conventions* elected immediately from the people.

This is a grave charge against the members of the present General Assembly, and you should have had very strong and reliable evidence of its truth before you ventured to publish it.

As a member of the Senate of Md., I feel that the charge applies to me as well as to my associates; and it is due to them, to you and to myself, that I should say that I know the accusation is wholly unjust. From my personal knowledge of the opinions of eighteen of the twenty-two Senators, I know that there never has been any possibility of the passage through that body of resolutions "committing this State to secession." From personal interviews with some of its leading members, I feel safe in saying the same in regard to the action of the House of Delegates.

I, therefore, most respectfully suggest that you have unintentionally done great injustice to the General Assembly, and created a needless panic among the people. *Your* recent publications caused even brave men to shudder at the peril which they supposed had been so narrowly escaped, convinced, as they were, that the General Assembly would have voted them, their families and property out of the Union almost as soon as convened.

As a natural consequence, many mass meetings in Maryland and at the North, tendered thanks to you for saving Maryland and the republic from the usurpations and treason of *such* a Legislature.

In your answer to the Talbot committee you say that your information in regard to the supposed action of the Legislature, "*was derived from sources not accessible to the people of the State.*" This is strange, passing strange. The members of the Senate and House of Delegates are in daily association with "the people of the State;" and it seems singular indeed that their suspected views, in regard to voting Maryland out of the Union, had not become known to other people of the State besides your Excellency.

In your address "To the People of Maryland," dated January 3d, 1861, you say:

"For myself, I have lived long enough to know how to despise false reports. A man need only fear unfavorable reports when they are true."

This same kind of philosophy has caused *me* to feel very amiable, notwithstanding the repeated attacks published by your Excellency against the members of the present Legislature and all those who advocated its convocation in extra session. These animadversions have not abated, in the slightest degree, the personal friendship and high respect which I have ever entertained towards you. I know you are honest and patriotic, and that you earnestly desire, in your official action, to protect the rights and promote the true interests of the people of Maryland. I know that you anxiously desire to ascertain what these rights and interests are, and *how* you can most efficiently guard the one and promote the other.

Under this belief, I take the liberty of presenting the following suggestions. I hope you will, at your earliest convenience, maturely consider them. If any of them meet your approval, I shall feel gratified. If *you* differ with the views I present, then I shall feel far less confident of the correctness of my own opinions.

First.—Five States—South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi and Florida—having actually seceded, and withdrawn from Congress their ten Senators and twenty-seven representatives, the sectional party which elected Abraham Lincoln have now a majority in both branches of the National Legislature, and, after the fourth of March next, that sectional party will have the power to pass such laws as they may see proper. They may abolish the present federal judiciary, establish a new system and appoint new judges; may abolish slavery in the District of Columbia; and create a standing army of such number as they may think sufficient to prevent Maryland and other border slave States from resisting the injustice of any part of their anti-slavery policy.

Second.—Every other southern State, except Maryland, seems to have declared the present to be an "extraordinary occasion" which required the deliberate action of their *people* to remedy present or prevent future evils. Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Missouri, Tennessee, Delaware, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas have all either actually called sovereign conventions of the people, or their Legislatures have been convened and are about to call such conventions, in order that their *people* may have an opportunity of deciding as to their own future destiny.

Third.—Unless Congress speedily adopts the Crittenden resolutions, or some other plan of conciliation of a similar import, it is almost certain that every State south of the Ohio and Potomac will secede from the present Union before the 4th of March, 1861. There seems now but little hope of the success of any such plan of settlement; and, therefore, there is great danger of such secession of thirteen southern States.

Fourth.—Should Virginia, Kentucky and the other States south of the Potomac and the Ohio secede from the present Union and form a southern confederacy, Maryland will have to decide (and promptly) whether she will join such confederacy, or unite herself with the free States of the North. It may happen that the separation now *probably* about to be made will not be a peaceable one. "*Coercion*" seems to be the favorite word in the most recent cabinet councils at Springfield!

Should Maryland unite her fortunes with Mr. Lincoln and the eighteen free States, every citizen of our State would owe allegiance to a nation at war with Virginia and the rest of the South. We would be bound, under the penalty of a traitor's doom, to render such service as our government might require of us in the prosecution of such a war.—The Potomac would be the dividing line, and Marylanders would have to meet there, sword in hand, regiments of Virginians—men who had done them no injustice, against whom they had no cause of complaint, and with whom, more than any other people, they had been most closely allied, from the days of the revolution to the present time, on the battle field, in business relations, and by ties of friendship and of blood.

Should Maryland unite her fortunes with the South, we may have to meet at Mason and Dixon's line regiments of Pennsylvanians.

This is the alternative which may be forced upon us.

Some timid (or prudent) men have suggested that a due regard to her *safety* should require Maryland to go with the North. This seems to me but a superficial view of the question. If, against our wishes and prayers, the present Union is dissolved, and war ensues between a Northern and Southern Confederacy, the geographical position of Maryland makes her a battle-ground, whether she joins the North or the South. The Potomac is little more of a natural protection than Mason and Dixon's Line; and if the descendants of the old "Maryland Line" (the Spartans of the Revolution) could stop to debate the question of where was the *less danger*, it would be decided by answering the inquiry whether there was the greater danger from facing a regiment of Pennsylvanians or a regiment of Virginians! If Maryland goes with the South, the capitol of the Southern Confederacy may remain at Washington. If she goes with the North, it will not remain there a single year, as no nation would decide to locate its seat of government and its public archives within cannon shot of a hostile country, and put its chief executive where he could not go to bed any night without fear of finding a bomb-shell in his chamber before sunrise the next morning.

Fifth.—Apart from any consideration as to relative personal danger, the people of Maryland, in selecting between a Northern or a Southern alliance, would be attracted to the latter by their *commercial or pecuniary* interests.

Every landholder in Maryland is more or less interested in the growth and prosperity of Baltimore. Double her population, and the value of every farm in the State is increased. Reduce the population of Baltimore to what it was 50 years ago, (about 40,000,) and the value of every acre of land in Maryland is diminished. The rapid growth of Baltimore has been caused by her commerce, or trade. That trade is chiefly with the South. It is true that Baltimore deals also with the North. But how? She *buys* from the North; but, as to about nine-tenths of her *sales*, they are to the South. Should separation be forced upon us, and Baltimore be put with the southern confederacy, she would hold her own—would not recede—and most probably would increase in business, prosperity and population. Place her in a northern confederacy, and she forthwith loses nine-tenths of her present customers. Norfolk will soon become what Baltimore now is. The favorite sea-port of Virginia—possessed of a splendid and secure harbor—with thousands of population and millions of capital attracted thither from New York and Baltimore, Norfolk would rapidly increase, and the "monumental city" as rapidly decrease in trade and population.

With such a separation of the American States as that just indicated, and then a war between the sections, what would become of the trade which sustains Baltimore? The two principal avenues which bring that trade are the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and the Chesapeake Bay. Both would virtually be closed. The Baltimore and Ohio railroad would then terminate at Harper's Ferry. Baltimore would be cut off, not merely from the trade of Eastern Ohio, but from that of Western Virginia, the Southwest, and even the coal trade of Western Maryland.

The mouth of the Chesapeake is between Cape Charles and Cape Henry—both part of Virginia soil. Two batteries erected there—and a few war steamers—would cut off Baltimore's connection with the ocean.

What, then, would become of the trade which has built up Baltimore and now sustains her population?—What, then, would become of the $20,000,000 invested by the State of Maryland, the city of Baltimore, and the people of the State, in the construction of 400 miles (including the Parkersburg branch) of railroad west of Harper's Ferry? What, then, would become of the thousands of our citizens now directly or indirectly interested in the trade brought to us by that railroad?

If we go with the South, we may lose our customers in Ohio. But, if we go with the North, and war ensues, we not only lose these customers, but *all* our southern ones, who, it is well understood, constitute at least three-fourths, and probably nine-tenths, of the whole.

Sixth.—If Virginia and the other States South of the Potomac secede from the present Union, *no* action on the part of Maryland is equivalent to an election to join a Northern confederacy in preference to a Southern one.

Under the circumstances in which we are now placed, a "masterly inactivity" on the part of Maryland is synonymous with annexation to the North and separation from the South. To keep Maryland passive—to prevent any action on her part—to prohibit her people from deciding as to their own destiny, is to decide that destiny for them and annex them to a Northern confederacy! It is deciding that, if war comes, the people of Maryland shall fight Virginians in preference to New-Englanders!

Seventh.—I think that the question as to whether the people of Maryland shall go with the North or with the South is so important a one that *they* should have an opportunity of deciding it for themselves. I think it would be most presumptuous for a Legislature elected "eighteen months ago" to assume to decide that question, and I think it even *more* presumptuous for a *Governor*, elected more than *three years* ago, to assume to decide it. The General Assembly has no right to transfer the people of Maryland either to the North or to the South, because they were elected for no such purpose. You have no right to make such transfer, because the power is not given to you by the State constitution; neither was it delegated to you by the people when they elected you in November, 1857. When you decide to do nothing, you, in effect, assume to make the transfer.

Eighth.—There seems to be a singular inconsistency between the policy which you have recently advocated and that which you have actually pursued. In your address "To the People of Maryland," of the 3d of January, you say: "Believing that the interests of Maryland were bound up with those of the border slaveholding States, I have been engaged for months past in a full interchange of views with the Governors of Virginia, Tennessee and Missouri, *with a view to concerted action upon our part.* These consultations, which are still in progress, I feel justified in saying, have resulted in good, so that when the proper time for action arrives these sister States, bound up *in a common destiny*, will, I trust, be PREPARED TO ACT TOGETHER."

Since you wrote the above the Legislatures of all four of the States you name *have* been convened: and in some, or all of them these Legislatures have provided for the election of conventions. You have told the people that you corresponded with these States "with a view to concerted action upon our part," and in order that Maryland and these States "might be prepared to act together." Now you have determined, so far as you can control the question, that they shall *not* "act together," and that Maryland shall not act at all!

You have materially varied from the policy approved by you on the 3d of January. Pardon me for saying that I think you were right as to that policy, but wrong as to your present one.

Ninth.—There are many hundreds of people of Maryland, and very many thousands north of Maryland, who believe they have a direct personal and pecuniary interest in preventing any "concerted action" between Maryland and the other "border slaveholding States." I allude to those gentlemen who aided by their votes, or otherwise, in the election of Mr. Lincoln, and who feel confident that certain offices of honor and profit will be bestowed, after the 4th of March, as a reward for their patriotic services. Is it strange that there should have been much of "concerted action" on the part of these republican partiots to influence you in changing the policy you so distinctly announced on the 3d of January? If rumors be correct, that "concerted action" has not merely extended to the passing of complimentary resolutions by republican Legislatures and to the firing of salutes by republican meetings in honor of yourself, but it has exerted itself in slandering the present Legislature of Maryland, with a view of exciting popular prejudice against its convocation. With that object it has not merely filled column after column of some of the leading papers of the State with deceptive letters and essays, but, if recent rumors be true, it has actually purchased a controlling influence in some of these papers, and is now daily using their editorial columns for the purpose of deceiving the unsuspicious masses of their readers! When you speak of deriving your information "from sources not accessible to the people of the State," I respectfully suggest that you should anxiously inquire as to the interested *motives* of some of those who have originated charges against the Legislature, which are equally unjust and absurd.

Tenth.—Permit me to invite your especial attention to the following provisions of our State constitution.

"The right of the people to participate in the *Legislature* is the *best security* of liberty."

"A long continuance in the executive departments of power or trust is *dangerous* to liberty."

"For the redress of grievances, and for amending, strengthening and preserving the laws, the Legislature ought to be *frequently convened.*"

In your recent action you seem to have lost sight of these fundamental principles of our State government. These principles proclaim that the legislative branch is the "best security" of the rights of the people, and that the danger to their liberties is to be feared chiefly from the "*executive* departments." You have in effect proclaimed to the people of the State that the Legislature is a nuisance and an evil, and that you only should be *trusted* in this terrible crisis with the decision of their future destiny!

When Charles the First determined to trample upon the rights of the people of England, he found that the Legislature (or Parliament) was the chief obstacle in his way. He therefore "resolved upon a plan of ruling without the aid of a Parliament. He announced his purpose by proclamation."

You "by proclamation" have announced that you have resolved upon a plan of ruling without the aid of a Legislature.

The final result of King Charles' rash experiment was his deposition and execution by an aggrieved and indignant people.

I have heard no one attribute to you any of the ambitious motives which prompted the action of King Charles, but I have heard the inquiry made:

"Upon what meat does this our 'Cæsar' feed, That he is grown so great?"

From personal knowledge, I have a very high opinion of your intelligence and patriotism. But you must have a much more exalted opinion of them, when you think it to be your especial and exclusive duty to decide the future destiny of over 700,000 people, without allowing them an opportunity of speaking for themselves! I can view your present position in no other light.

You refuse to convene the Legislature. You refuse to convene "the Senate alone." You refuse to call a convention. And you even refuse to permit the people an opportunity of saying whether they desire to have such a convention!

Please give a few moments' consideration to the above suggestions, and believe me.

Very truly, your friend,

COLEMAN YELLOTT.

P. S.—Since writing the above, I have read in the Baltimore American your letter to the Alabama commissioner, the Hon. J. L. Corrie. In that letter you assume to speak again and again for the "people of Maryland," not merely as to *their* present opinions, but in regard to the future policy *they* intend to pursue. From what clause in the State constitution do *you* derive the power of thus "committing this State?" If it would have been an *usurpation* on the part of the Legislature to have assumed to commit this State as to her future policy, I much fear that many thousand Marylanders will think that you yourself have been guilty of the same offense which you have charged, on mere suspicion, against the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates. If there is to be any "committing" of this State, it seems to me that the *people* themselves should have an opportunity of taking some part in the business, through a convention elected for that purpose, and that, too, without unnecessary delay. C. Y.

CURE FOR FROSTED FEET.—It is said that frozen feet can be speedily and certainly cured by being bathed and well rubbed with kerosene or coal oil, for a few times at night before retiring to bed. Several persons have already tried it, all of whom unite in pronouncing it an effectual cure, which, if they are correct, is an easy and cheap mode of getting rid of a very sore and troublesome affliction. Those who had tried it inform us that the feet should be well warmed by a hot stove during and after the application of the oil, and it will certainly effect a speedy cure. Persons suffering from the pain of frosted feet will no doubt do well in giving it a trial, for it is surely a very cheap ointment, and one which is very easily applied.—*Harrisburg Union.*

TRYING SEED CORN.—A Correspondent of the Nebraska Farmer, after describing his method of selecting seed corn in the field in Autumn, and keeping it in a moderately warm dry place in winter, says that in the spring he tests it as follows: He rolls or wraps each ear in paper; twists the little end, and shears off the paper at the big end, down even with the ear. He then draws out the ear carefully, and shells it. If the shelled corn of any ear does not fill the paper, it is *rejected*. In this way he sorts out the heavy kerneled and small cob grades, and is improving his crop.

A negro woman, slave to Rev. J. Doughen, of Lynchburg, Va., who escaped to Boston several months since, voluntarily returned to her master on Saturday last, having been reduced almost to the point of starvation during her stay among her pretended friends. She comes back with the determination never again to leave old Virginia, where, she says, the negro is ten times as free and happy as in the North. What a commentary upon the boasted philanthophy of the black republicans!

It is a singular fact that Indiana has had four Governors since the 1st of October, four months. Gov. Willard died on the 3d of that month, when Lieutenant Gov. Hommond became Governor. He served till January 14, when Governor Lane was inaugurated. Gov. Lane served two days, when he was elected to the United States Senate, and was superseded by Lieutenant Governor Morton.

What fish do fowlers prefer?—The perch.

What fish is seasonable in winter? A good skate.

What vessel does a kiss remind you of?—A smack.

What interjection is of the feminine gender?—A-lass!

When is a sick man a contradiction?—When he is an impatient patient.

What vegetable is anything but agreeable on board a ship?—A leek.

It is said that in some parts of Turkey, whenever a shopkeeper is convicted of telling a falsehood, his house is at once painted black, to remain so for a month. If there was such a law in force in this country, what a sable and gloomy appearance some people's houses would present.

"Well, Jane, this is a queer world, said Ed. to his wife; "a sect of women philosophers has just sprung up." "Indeed," said Jane; "and what do they hold?"—"The strangest thing in nature," said he—"their tongues!"

A wag being asked the name of the inventor of butter-stamps, replied that it was probably Cadmus, as he first brought letters into Greece.

If falsehood paralyzed the tongue, what a death-like sike silence would pervade society.

When you dispute with a fool, he is very certain to be similarly employed.

When two gentlemen fight a duel, each of them is a man after the other's own heart.

A man's good fortune often turns his head; his bad fortune as often averts the heads of his friends.

In all noble enterprises the ladies are like the electric telegraph—far in advance of the *males*.

Did you ever know a woman that would not think you intelligent, if you said her children were pretty?

Why is the letter G like an individual who has left an evening party?—Because it makes one gone.

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