

of public calamity, of faction, of sectional seduction or intimidation, of evil in any form the most dreadful to man, Kentucky, like Massachusetts, regards the overthrow of the Union as more frightful than all. Kentucky acknowledges no justification for a disruption of the Union, that is not a justification for revolution itself. In that Union, and under that Constitution, Kentucky means to stand or fall. Kentucky stands by the Union in her living efforts; she means to hold fast to it in her expiring groans. With Massachusetts she means to perish, if perish she must, with hands clenched, in death, upon the Union.

God knows, our institutions have of late been sufficiently shocked to excite the just fears of us all. The very worst elements among us have been aroused into the most terrific activity. Much of the public virtue and intelligence of the country has been overwhelmed; and those whose exalted qualities of intellect and of patriotism should have designated them as the fit agents of the people, in the administration of a free Constitution, have been left in obscurity and neglect and, in some degree, exiles in their own land. Wave after wave has dashed over the country in a succession too rapid almost to allow the Constitution, or even Liberty itself, to breathe. Nearly every interest violently assailed, nearly every institution struck at, nearly every principle, formerly held dear and sacred, disregarded and trampled upon, innovation and lawlessness dashing headlong over everything, under the terrific guidance of the presumptuous ignorance and prescriptive vengeance of our rulers; how could the enlightened friend of freedom fail to tremble for the country? But the storm is over. The Genius of our liberty and institutions is erecting himself, and the first spectacle he beholds is the scattered and shivered fragments of the lately overwhelming power to which he had been forced temporarily to give place. And on will these fragments drift, inert and uncontrolled—into the insignificance and utter annihilation,