

tigue the Convention, I shall feel little concern about becoming tired myself, because this is the afternoon rather than the forenoon of the day. [Laughter.]

And here permit me to say that I have never listened to a discussion with which I have been more pleased, not only as to the matter, but as to the manner of its delivery; and the courteous, kind and gentlemanly bearing of all the speakers towards each other and towards the House generally. And being unaccustomed myself to speaking, I have some fears that I may unintentionally transgress the rule and make an exception to the generally courteous and gentlemanly behavior of members here. [Laughter.] And I disavow in advance any intention to give offence, at the same time that I think it is quite likely I shall deliver myself of some ideas which may not be wholly palatable to all, and in a manner rather uncouth.

Though I was the author of the hour rule under which we are now operating, I did not offer it with any disposition to limit debate or to stifle the freest latitude of discussion. But knowing that there were a great many persons to speak, and that time has a limit, I thought it proper to limit speeches to an hour in length, supposing that was time enough for a man to speak who had anything to say; and that if he had nothing to say he ought to get done in an hour. And I was not at all concerned whether the opponents of this article monopolized all the time or whether it was divided with those who think as I do; for I think they will live to see the time when they will regret that their names go down to posterity connected with such heresies as they have uttered here. And they have more to suffer—for they have made longer speeches and I believe more of them than have come from our side—they will have more to suffer in the estimation of those who may read them hereafter, than we will who have said less.

And if the time ever comes when my honorable friend from Howard (Mr. Sands) shall get his philosophical and moral lever erected, [laughter,] I hope he will attach it not to the doctrines which have been uttered here, that he may by no possibility raise them. The doctrines themselves are bound downwards; [renewed laughter] they belong to a different sphere. The tragical operations of those doctrines sent the first colony to that region. [Laughter and applause.] But in mercy to the gentlemen who have advocated those doctrines here, I would like the lever to be attached to them, in order to detach them from the doctrines that are tending downwards; these no philosophical or other lever can ever raise, and which will inevitably carry their authors with them if they do not get loose from them.

Mr. President, all this lengthy labored discussion to which we have listened on that

side of the question, abounding as the speeches did in philippics of the most severe and bitter character, in denunciations the most sweeping against the administration generally, all these speeches had one distinguishing feature. I will say here that they manifested a great deal of ability, a great deal of research, and as literary, and historical, and legal efforts, they were really creditable. But the same remark will apply to them all—there was not a particle of soul in them; there was not a single patriotic aspiration; there was not a single wish or preference expressed by which the stranger listening to them could have told whether the speakers belonged to the Federal Government or to the Rebel Government. The gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) who first spoke, said that the question had been submitted to the arbitrament of the sword, and there he would let it be. But he never manifested the least concern as to which way that decision terminated, whether in favor of the Government of his country or in favor of those who are trying to break it up. With as much indifference as a Frenchman or an Englishman could have stated it, he said it had been submitted to the arbitrament of the sword, and there let it be. I could not help thinking of some lines written by the old poet:

“Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself has said,
This is my own, my native land?
If such there breathe, go mark him well;
For him no minstrel rapture swell;
High though his title, proud his name,
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim,
In spite of all his power and self,
The wretch center'd all in self
Living shall forfeit fair renown,
And doubly dying shall go down
To the vile dust from whence he sprung,
Unwept, unbonored and unsung.”

It was painful to notice the total absence of any patriotic emotion, any desire for the success of the arms of the Government over the traitorous horde that is trying to destroy it. There was not one word of cheer for the brave men who are periling their lives in efforts to uphold the glorious old flag of our country; nor one word of condemnation or rebuke of the godless crew that inaugurated this rebellion to break up this Government. With the most utter indifference the gentleman said it had been submitted to the arbitrament of the sword, and there let it remain.

Another very remarkable feature which struck me in listening to this discussion, long and able as it was, was the diversity of opinion expressed by the opposition. Now, truth is simple and always consistent with itself—and if no other proof was presented of the utter absurdity and falsity of the propositions advanced here, their inconsistency with them-