THE SENTINEL.

BENJAMIN F. WADDY,

Georgetown, D. C. is our authorized Agent for receiving subscriptions and advertisements.

ROCKVILLE, January 28, 1861.

To the Editor of the Sentinel:

A. B. Davis, Esq., charges that my former communication "is so framed as to place him and those with whom he acted, but especially himself, in a false position," "by statement and insinuation, that he was then bound by a party caucus," and gives what he poetically calls, "his plain tale" to put me down. I asked him the question, if he was not then bound by a party caucus? He failed to answer it.

After he has made "his tale plain," visibly so, by stating the part he took in the meeting, which I admit to be substantially correct, I ask what *fact* does he state that alters the facts related by me? Not one. I said when opportunity was offered by the chairman of the committee, I read resolutions prepared by Dr. Harding—that they were not seconded, and were not pressed to a vote. Mr. Davis admits this was so; but he now lays the blame on me and the Democrats, and remarks, "that both from the intrinsic merit of the resolutions, and the source whence they came, they were entitled to a better fate, at least from the hands of professed personal and political friends." Indeed! This is very complimentary, my dear *no-party* friend and patriotic co-laborer! He admits the meeting was called without distinction of party, and that he attended it with feelings soaring into the regions of pure patriotism, far above all wish to secure mere party advantages. Then, in this meeting, if there were no hypocrites, there were no Democrats and no Americans, but all were Marylanders, Union men, in the patriotic significance of the word. Mr. Davis was present, by, for the purpose of that meeting, as much in the party, as I know he was the personal friend of Dr. Harding as myself, or any other Democrat. Why then did he not support resolutions coming from his personal and political friend—"a writer entitled to respect," which he admits to have had "great merit?" He did not do it, and it is pure sophistry for him to try to escape the responsibility, by throwing it on me and other Democrats. The fact is, these resolutions looked to such declarations of principles, and especially of immediate State action, as would put this State in a condition to take sides and position with her Southern sisters, if all proper efforts to save the existing Union should fail, and I did not press them when I found they received no response, because I considered them less pointed than my own, looking to the same object. He did not support them, because he prefers a Know-nothing, do-nothing policy, which will permit the State to be sleeping in fancied safety until she falls helplessly under the dominion of the insolent Republican party, and ultimately to become a depending tributary the united policy of the Federal Government, and its allies in this State. And I risk nothing in expressing the prediction that there will be men enough in this State, from those who are co-operating with Mr. Davis, mean enough to *seek* and receive from Lincoln, the Republican President, the Federal offices in this State, as well as some of the State; for truly there have been Judas's in every age, who are willing to sell their birthright for a mess of pottage.

I stated, I moved an amendment of Mr. Bowie's preamble, (perhaps I ought to say the *American caucus preamble*, offered by Mr. Bowie,) that Mr. Davis and Mr. Miller opposed the amendment, but that Mr. Bowie accepted it without taking a formal vote. Mr. Davis now says, "the amendment was slight one," "being accepted by Mr. Bowie, (of course no vote was taken.) True it was a short but, I thought, a pointed one. The fact is, it was so radical that it was the theory of those who contend that the reserved rights of the several States, which is the only centrifugal force in our political system to prevent the Federal government from becoming despotic, does not to be, a great, consolidated Central power, treating contemptuously down in the complaints of minorities—in the triumphant shouts of majorities—to break down all separate State action opposed to its policy and objects, and to reduce the States to the secondary condition of subjugated provinces, and to compel their citizens, at the peril of their lives and estates, to act wholly subservient to the purposes of an over powering and irresistible despotism, first created by unjust laws of unrestrained majorities, and then of some fearless and base individual usurper. I did not say that he voted against the amendment, or that any vote was taken on it as an amendment; I said he and Mr. Miller opposed the amendment, and he does not and cannot deny that fact.

If Mr. Bowie's (*the American caucus*) preamble and resolutions "covered the whole ground in controversy, exposing the danger, and pointing out clearly the remedy," as Mr. Davis now says, why did he perform the lost labor of love, to vote for my resolutions numbered as published, 5, 7, and 8? Why did he vote against another one in the committee, and a few moments afterwards vote for it in the meeting?—a fact which I did not know until he informed the public in his communication. This mental transition was much more rapid and wonderful, than the one which he stated in his speech to the meeting his mind had undergone on the necessity of the convocation of the Legislature.

If my resolution requesting the Governor to call together the Legislature at once, and also my other resolutions, as well those he voted for, as those he voted against, are "party dogmas, uncited to the occasion," I now call upon him to state what party has enunciated them as its "dogmas," when and where it was done, and upon what evidence he so asserts? He cannot say any secret Democratic caucus, or Democratic party, has done so, unless he intends to say nearly all of the State Senators, elected by his party, including J. Mottram Kilgour, Esq., and a host of other private conservative gentlemen, belonging to the American party, have become Democrats.

If Mr. Bowie's 3d resolution, leaving the convocation of the Legislature to provide for a State Convention, to the discretion of the Governor, provided clearly for our protection against existing dangers, why did Mr Davis, a few days only after its adoption, with his vote, go as a delegate from a convention held in Baltimore, to urge the Governor to call a convention of the people? If a convention was not necessary, why did he go on this fools errand? When the Governor refused to call a convention, and gave him the *wonderful* piece of *startling* information, that he had as much legal authority to convoke a convention as he (the Governor) had, why did he not return home, and, in connection with friends, appeal to the people to assemble in convention as a necessary means of protection? If he felt he had no legal authority to do so, why did he not join advocate for the meeting of the Legislature, which has the undisputed right to call a convention of the people, and, by throwing his influence in this direction, assist in forcing the Governor to gratify the public wish to take some decided and immediate State action for our common safety? The answer to these questions will be interesting to the public, coming from a "source entitled to great respect," and will no doubt meet with a little more in accordance with their "merit," than did his friend's (Dr. Harding's) resolutions at his hands in the county meeting.

I must confess that I, as a Marylander, do not understand the political course or policy of Mr Davis, and of Governor Hicks. But the Republicans seem to do so fully, and not only rightly to appreciate it at home, but, in the exuberance of their gratitude, they sent a special embassy from Pennsylvania to Governor Hicks, to make known to him their thanks and kind sympathies, and to tender to him material aid to support him in his patriotic policy, whenever, in his judgment, the public safety requires it. What an insult! and from such a source!!

Mr. Davis says it was to the "&c." part of my 6th resolution, he was opposed, and that I played the part of a deceptious lawyer, in omitting, in my statement, that part of that resolution. I omitted it for brevity, and not for deception. The entire resolution had been previously published, and was before the public. I therefore referred only to so much of it as I supposed would identify it. But I will now supply what he considered an omission, merely adding figures to divide it into two clauses:

"6. *Resolved*, (1st,) That it would be detrimental to the peace and prosperity of this State for Congress to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, or in the Forts, &c. in this State—[This '&c.' was in the original wording of the resolution, and is not the '&c.' to which he objects; it means dockyards and other portions of territory ceded by this State for the convenience of the Federal Government, and to promote the safety and prosperity of this State, &c.]—(2d,) or the slave-trade between the States; and any such law would be a breach of good faith, a violation of the constitution of the United States, and a reproach to the institutions of this State; and inasmuch as the Free States think differently, Maryland ought now to insist upon such amendments of the constitution as will clearly remove all doubts, and prohibit Congress from passing any such laws."

Mr. Davis voted against this resolution entire; but says it was because he was opposed to this second or last clause, coupled up in my "&c." He then is confessedly in favor of "abolishing the slave trade between the States," and thinks that such a law would not be a "breach of good faith," nor a "violation of the constitution of the United States," and would not be a "reproach to the institutions of this State," and that "Maryland ought not now to insist on such constitutional amendments as will remove all doubts, and prohibit Congress from passing any such law." Republicans and Mr. Davis agree most heartily in this! A little more of the same sentiment will entitle him to a seat in Mr. Lincoln's cabinet, or to great influence in dispensing the Federal patronage in this State, with a view to his future political advancement, or, at least, to a fat office, as a small token of abolition gratitude, and he will be recorded as a precious Union-saver on the pages of the Baltimore "Patriot," an abolition paper, said to be owned in whole or in part by Mr. Partridge, Gov. Hicks's Secretary of State, and edited by that unprincipled demagogue, French S. Evans, who desecrates the sacred name of a "preacher of the gospel of peace on earth—good will to men."

But he opposed my anti-coercion resolution, because he thinks it might be "misconstrued," and "urged at the north as a reason against enforcing the fugitive slave law." The north already refuses to enforce that law, and have effectually nullified it without rhyme or reason, and boasts in its determination to continue to do so. But how could it be so "misconstrued" and "urged?" The northern States admit themselves "to be within the territorial operation of that law," and "insist that all of the laws of the Union shall be enforced—meaning, however, to apply the latter clause not to themselves, but to the South. But the South say, they have a right to place themselves beyond the territorial jurisdiction of the constitution and laws of the Union." Their position, then, is very different from that of the northern States, where we vainly desire to enforce the fugitive slave law. My resolution does not affirm or deny the correctness of the position taken by the seceding States. It simply enunciates a doctrine opposed to plunging the country into civil war. Mr Crittenden has very recently in the Senate subscribed to the same doctrine, and nearly all of the conservative men of the country, as well north as south, take the same view. But the Republicans are the open advocates of coercion, *and so is Mr. Davis!* He is in favor of "using the army and navy of the United States to force any State to remain in the Union which has seceded, or which may secede, on account of the course pursued by the north on the slavery questions, and, if war should be made on any such seceding States, Maryland ought to sustain the General Government in it." Maryland can do so effectually only with men and money. Whenever President Lincoln is ready to open the campaign, by falling into the field an army, of which he will be commander-in-chief, "only stop and think" he will call on his friend and ally, Gov. Hicks, for Maryland's quota of men and money; this Hicks will call on his friend and ally, A. B. Davis, who will no longer remain an humble Squire, but will then "Birth be *General* A. B. Davis to make good his promise, and to come forth with old Montgomery's quota of men and money. But, *General*, you are but one man, although a GENERAL, and not to be expected to do all the fighting for the county, and, although one of her richest citizens, it would be unsound and unreasonable for the Governor to expect you to furnish from your own purse all the money. Now, *General*, where can you get the men and money for this war? Not from your *Friends* about Sandy Spring, who sustain your coercion policy by their *votes* and *talk*. Their religion, admitted to be commendable so far as it is good, will not permit them to fight. Will they furnish the money to pay you and your men, who will fight? Oh, no! that too is against their religion, and will decidedly impair their health, by disturbing the regular action of their *peaceable*, the most *delicate* and *sensitive* in their whole body. Why, my dear *General*, their *consciences* will not even permit them to breathe a low and soft, even a little tiny bit of a dwarfish, sickly, stingy, short prayer, away, low, deep down in the hidden recesses of their own *holy hearts*, to the God of Battles and of their native and beloved country to protect you and your men from harm, and to give you a speedy and glorious victory over your enemies! Does *General* Davis think the true-hearted sons of old Montgomery, whether Democrats or Americans, will fill up his ranks with men, or his coffers with money, to go South to help him to kill his relatives and friends, and their relatives and friends, and to destroy their homes and plunder their property, to carry out the coercion policy of an Abolition President, and a Governor, whose policy seems to be, like that of Charles the First, to rule the State by his own prerogatives, independent of the Legislature or the will of the people, or permit it to be crushed beneath the wheels of the Republican car? Never, sir; never in this world! But, *General*, there is one hope still left you, to redeem your promise of supporting the Federal Government in this unnatural and fearful war of sections. You can avail yourself of the generous—yes, magnanimous offer of aid made by Gov. Curtin, of Pennsylvania, to his friend, Gov. Hicks. Perhaps you may be able to collect men and money there, and you may probably be able to bring them into Maryland; but when you get them safely out of it, you will exhibit greater ability in fighting and retreating than did the world renowned Xenophon of antiquity.

It occurs to me that the support promised by Mr. Davis to Gov. Hicks and to the Federal Government, to coerce the seceding States to return to their allegiance to this Union, will prove as unavailing as his late promise or declaration of attending our late county meeting and take part in its proceedings, divested of party feelings and purposes. Can it be possible that he expresses his real sentiment, when he says "he does not want to 'hitch on' Maryland to the South Carolina car of folly and rebellion," but wants her to "remain in the Union," "safely anchored" to the ice-bergs of the North? I knew there was a party in this State greedy for Federal patronage, which desires Maryland to connect herself with the Abolition Republic of the North; but I am hardly prepared to hear Mr. Davis, at this early day, declare himself as belonging to that party. No wonder all resolutions intended to put Maryland in motion to demand her equal rights with all other States, and proclaiming, if denied, she would leave her enemies at the North, and unite with her friends at the South, when all hopes of saving the Union had disappeared, seemed to him to be mere "party dogmas, unsuited to the times."

The indications, when our county meeting was held, were that the Republicans would make no concessions, without which all the Slave States, except perhaps Maryland, would speedily take steps fully to obtain their equal rights, or secede. These indications are daily being recorded, as fixed facts. When all the other Slave States are gone from the Union, within which Mr. Davis now rejoices to keep Maryland "safely anchored," what then? Let her remain "safely anchored" in a Union of Abolition States, and the slave-cursed Maryland? Perhaps he will then say, "let her secede, also." Oh no, sir; it will then be too late. He would never be so inconsistent as to become a "seceding rebel," and the haughty Republican masters of a Central despotism, would never permit it; for his own votes would be quoted to show his opinion that the Northern States, wielding the organized legal machinery of the Federal Government, have the right, by the strong arm of power, to coerce Maryland to remain in the Union, and that he stands pledged to help to compel her to do so. As well might a devoted, loving husband expect to perpetuate his union with a beloved wife, by coercing her spirit to remain in her body dissolving by the hand of death. The Northern States, in the specious name of enforcing the laws and preserving the Union, will then be fully willing and amply able to enforce her into submission, or to be desolated and ruined with fire, and sword, and rapine, and plunder. Mr. Davis could not, when this her day of degradation and ruin comes upon her, have the face to ask help from the South, to whose "car of folly and rebellion" he scorned to "hitch on," when those States were threatened with the same danger from the same enemies. He would no doubt consider himself more comfortable to be found on the summit of a high hill, in a raging hurricane, in the depths of a cold winter's night, whistling psalms to a dead horse, and his services would be as useful in the one case as in the other.

Mr. Davis says "my regret at being induced by him to withdraw my resolution censuring Henry Winter Davis for his vote electing Mr. Speaker Pennington, shows my partizan spirit is coming to the meeting;" and the action of Mr. A. B. Davis, as President of the Brookeville Turnpike, in keeping a Republican in the all important office of toll-gate keeper, and who he knows disgraced this county as delegate to the Black Republican convention in Baltimore last fall, because he makes money for the company, shows the proclivities of his partizan feelings, which I have as yet seen no evidence he laid aside when he came to that meeting. My resolution contains more than an objection to the vote of Henry Winter Davis, for the election of Pennington, the Republican speaker in Congress; it is, "We condemn the course of Henry Winter Davis in Congress on questions arising out of the slavery agitation; he misrepresents public sentiment, and dishonors Maryland." A. B. Davis, Esq., knows, in the last Legislature, all the Democrats and all the Americans, except one from Baltimore, concurring, passed a resolution to the same effect, and that Henry Winter Davis said, in his place on the floor of Congress, substantially, "that they were all a set of fools for so doing. Then I had good reason to suppose that the Americans of this county, as well as the Democrats, were fully prepared, as Marylanders, to endorse this proposition to vindicate the honor of the State from the disgrace thrown upon her by the abolition course of the usurper, Henry Winter Davis; and that the time was opportune to have this action of the Legislature endorsed by the people, when both parties had professed to lay down party strife, and had assembled to consult together, as kind brothers, to agree upon the means of common defence against the common abolition foes, of whom Henry Winter Davis is one. If by this resolution I showed partizan feeling against any party, it was against the Republican party; and if, by so doing, I have offended my friend A. B. Davis, Esq., I hope he will impute it to my warm southern blood, and kindly excuse me.

Mr. Davis does not deny the facts heretofore given by myself. How then can he say I have endeavored to please him and his friends wrong, by statements and insinuations? I simply gave the resolutions in the committee, and the votes on them, showing as well my own vote, as his and others, on each resolution. I am willing to abide by the record, and so must he and others, and the public must determine between us. Mr. Davis does not even deny the conversation I stated to have passed between us, about attending the meeting divested of party feelings. It was every word true; and if his brain is "tender" and prone to be "biased by prejudice" mine is neither "tender" nor "biased by prejudice;" for Mr. Davis and myself have always been on the most friendly terms—sociality and whatever much we may differ in public affairs sometimes, for he has not even always differed from me in party action.

The "Sentinel," previous to my last communication, contained an extraordinary charge that the American party had secretly held a party caucus, in advance of the Mass Meeting, to be held without distinction of party, and had agreed upon resolutions, to be sustained by them at the approaching Mass Meeting, and that Mr. Davis was a member of that caucus. I deliberately alluded to that grave charge, and asked Mr. Davis if it was true? He *forgot* to answer that question in his communication of the 21st instant. Will he be kind enough to bear it in mind, and answer that question at his earliest convenience? and he can also avail himself of the same occasion to inform the public whether any resolutions, or other course of action, were at that caucus agreed upon, and, if any, what? I hope he will be particular and minute, as a fair minded public wants the piece of evidence, so completely at his command, to enable it to render a correct verdict upon the matter now before it. Should he fail to do so, I shall be unwillingly forced to the conclusion, that the charge is true, and that he wisely declines to become the herald of his own shame.

W. VEIRS BOIE.

FOR THE SENTINEL.

The Friends of Sandy Spring has been drawn into public notice, which they did not covet, through the recent exercise, on the part of several individuals belonging their body, of a simple right guaranteed every citizen of our Republic. Believing at the time has come when it is especially incumbent on all the members of the community to understand and do justice to one another, I deem that a fit occasion has thus arisen for making a few remarks on the position and character of a people, who have certainly been misunderstood.

By way of commencement, let me ask, *who are* "the Quaker Friends" of Sandy Spring? Are they *new-comers* into our town, bringing with them, from some Northern section, habits and doctrines hostile to those of its citizens? Let their history answer these questions. The ancestors of the principal families of this people removed into this neighborhood, at a very early period, from the lower counties of Maryland, and from Virginia. They were among the first white men who penetrated the primeval wilderness, which was long after organized into Montgomery county. They cleared the forests, and subdued the wilds; built comfortable dwellings, a meeting-house, and school-house; and left to their descendants, the present occupants of the neighborhood, the work of carrying on the improvements which their forefathers had begun. The friends of the olden times associated in the most friendly manner, with their pioneer neighbors. I find in many ancient documents relating landed estates, that the Brookes, Dawes, and other principal men, among early settlers, acted together in performing offices of a kind and neighborly character, and the same spirit has continued to pervade the intercourse of these people with all in their vicinity, down to the present time. They have taken their fair share of the burdens of the county; they have contributed their share to the improvements which have taken place, and they are in every way identified with the interests and its destiny.

But the Friends are accused of holding opinions on the subject of slavery, which are urged against the propriety of their taking part in public affairs at this critical juncture. It is due to them, and to the rest of the community, that the truth about this matter, should be told. Let us refer briefly to their history.

About the year 1772, Baltimore yearly meeting directed the attention of its members to this subject. After a calm and quiet deliberation, uninfluenced by outside pressure, the Friends came to the conclusion that their own members ought to give up the practice of holding slaves. Non-slaveholding was thus made one of *their distinctive institutions*. But they *never undertook* to urge of the *consciences* of *other* people, or any other matter. Their "testimony" in relation to this subject affects themselves alone.

If any of your readers is desirous of knowing the truth, in respect to the doctrines of the Maryland Friends, concerning slavery, I will send him the printed "extracts" of the proceedings of their yearly meeting: therein will be found abundant evidence of their principles of non-interference with the rights, guaranteed to others by the laws of the land, to which no people have rendered more willing obedience.

In regard to the particular occasion upon which the Friends of Sandy Spring met their fellow-citizens of the county, on the first day of this new year, their attendance can be readily explained, without resorting to any injurious imputations. They probably believe, in common with our excellent Governor, and with most persons who take an intelligent view of the future probabilities that the dissolution of this Union would be followed by the speedy extinction of slavery in Maryland. If, then, they sympathized with that fanatical party, whose devotion to *one idea*, has produced so much mischief in the country, they would be found strengthening the hands of those who are blindly endeavoring to destroy the best government ever framed by man. But the Friends can and do take into consideration many things beside slavery: they are sincere well-wishers to their neighbors, their country, and mankind: hence they go in, with one accord and with their whole heart, for peace and union.

I ask leave to make one other reference to history. Bancroft, in the second volume of his great work, gives, perhaps, the best and most discriminating account of the principles of the society of Friends, which has ever been published. In an animated chapter, that will repay perusal, he shows the influence which that people exerted in establishing the principles of civil and religious liberty, and attributes to their peaceful efforts a considerable share in impressing those sentiments, which led ultimately to the independence of America. George Fox, the founder of the society, came over to America, as Bancroft tells us, at a very early period, and visited the infant settlements of North Carolina, at a time when its lordly proprietors in England were endeavoring to force their obnoxious measures on the freedom-loving people of that Colony. Disciple and servant of the Prince of Peace, as he was, Fox used this language in his public and private communications: "Friends," said he, "stand up for your rights!" This doctrine has also taken root in the hearts of his people. Let us hope that the Friends of Sandy Spring will be still his faithful followers; and, while respecting all the rights of others, stand up, mildly and firmly for their own.

Surely this is no time for divisions and recriminations among citizens of the same community, bound together by all the ties of interest and ancient friendship, and linked to one common destiny. For let it be borne in mind, in these times which are against "to try men's souls," that the fate of one, is the fate of all. Whether our good State of Maryland remains to be the proud heart of a happy Union; or whether, drawn into the fatal embrace of South Carolina, she shall be dragged with her over the precipice of disunion into the gulf that lies *beyond*—we, her true and faithful sons, shall all "live or die, sink or swim, survive or perish," together!

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