

under the auspices of the federal government, guarded by bayonets, and actuated by nothing but hatred towards the slaveholder.

He was willing to vote with the committee "that slavery shall not be permitted," because that was a dead issue; but when it comes to this it was no dead issue, but one of living, vital importance, which the people of the State would examine carefully. He denied that it was an inalienable right, and insisted that it had no place in this Bill of Rights. If it is an inalienable right, why not say that every woman may testify? He begged that they would not, from a subservient spirit, sacrifice the rights of the people of this State to conciliate that mad party which will scorn the conciliation.

Mr. Kennedy was disposed to let the question pass upon this Bill of Rights without regard to its legal effect hereafter, but when they were here to form a constitution for the people of the State of Maryland, they had to be governed by some considerations of statesmanship, and look to the great results to be accomplished. We have found ourselves in the midst of a mighty revolution, upheaving the foundations of society. The old landmarks of this government have been swept away. When this revolution came, he had, in the public position in which he had been honored by this State, predicted this result, and the prediction had become fearful reality. We are not now living under the protecting aegis of that flag. There is but a little remnant of American constitutional liberty left us. This revolution was not yet ended, and he feared that we may yet go through scenes of horror of which the days of the French revolution can furnish no counterpart. It becomes us, then, as representatives of a sovereign State of this Union to declare anew those principles of constitutional liberty upon which rest the foundations of our government. We have a duty to perform to maintain what we believe to be the true principles of free government. We are surrounded by circumstances over which we have no control, and he regarded it to be the duty of statesmanship to rise equal to the occasion.

He believed that, in view of the circumstances which surround us, we should adapt ourselves to them, and adopt such laws as will protect us; and under this view,