

I had hoped that this convention would have permitted its work—a work of such grave and solemn importance—to go to the people of Maryland apart from partisan considerations to the decision of their free unstifled voice. But they fear that if they do so, if they leave this work to the decision of the free people of Maryland at the polls, they will tear to shreds the work of their hands, and reject it. They know that they do not even represent a respectable minority of the 90,000 voters of the State of Maryland. If a man who has read and seen what has transpired in the State of Maryland for the last two or three years does not know that, I have very little hope of his ever learning anything in the future.

As to what the gentleman from Baltimore city says in regard to the statutes passed by the State of Maryland striking at disloyalty, striking at men whom they conceived to be untrue to the country, he read a statute from the laws of Maryland, passed I believe before any constitution of the State of Maryland had been adopted. I call the attention of the gentleman to the fact that the men who passed that statute had no organic law, and it does seem to me from the course these gentlemen are pursuing, they have forgotten that they have such a thing as a constitution binding them in the State of Maryland.

We know the purposes of this. I tell the convention that they may do this work; they may submit this form of government to the people; but there is a higher authority, a sober second thought of the people of Maryland which will undo their work, and treat with contempt any effort emanating from any source to throttle the free expression of their will. You may pass this proposition, and the vote may be called in Maryland. You may, as you did upon the call of this convention, by your unconstitutional test oath, exclude forty thousand high-toned and conscientious men from the ballot-box. But there is a day of freedom to come. I thank God that the military arm of the government which intervened at the call of the legislature which brought you here, which made you; which gave you life and being, cannot live forever in this land. There is a returning day when the forty thousand disfranchised men of Maryland will speak in thunder tones and tear your work into shreds and scatter it to the four winds of heaven. If we could have had the opportunities that you had, without the restriction of the oath, we could have spoken with some degree of power. I tell these gentlemen that there is still power in the public voice, and the will of the people which, when peace and calmness comes upon the land, will return the judgment upon them.

There was a time, in 1856, when your State was lashed into a boiling cauldron by another element of proscription, that of the Catholic,

by a war raised against that religion. And some men, floating upon that turbulent wave that had been lashed into fury by the storm, came to your legislative halls. They went back, and they never were heard of until another storm came, and again they are here. But they may see the hand writing on the wall. These men who have been raised up, floating on the current, in the turmoil of the hour, will disappear (as the bubbles that children blow for amusement, before the returning sound sense of the majority of the people of the State of Maryland).

You may ask for military power to come here and aid you; you may arm your organizations of plug-uglies, or any other such clubs or associations, to give you temporary power at the ballot-box, but in vain. The people of the State of Maryland, thank God, love liberty, and will have it. They will have it in spite of your convention, in spite of the interference of the military, in spite of all obstructions. It will come sooner or later, and I warn these gentlemen. It has been said in the language of scripture that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of an offended God. So I tell some of these gentlemen, that so far as human punishment is concerned, it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of an outraged and offended people. You may pursue this course; you may violate justice; you may perpetrate outrages; offences against the law and in violation of personal liberty may be committed; but the end will some day come.

A very few years ago, under the despotism of Austria, there was a man whose name is given to infamy and scorn for all time to come, Haynan, the Austrian butcher. He violated the sentiment of the civilized world. He violated the principles of liberty and justice; and what was his fate? I thank God that it was the privilege of a great American statesman to arraign him before the bar of the civilized world for his injustice and his butchery. He went, sir, finally, home to his infamy. And why? Because he violated the instincts of human right and human justice. He violated the instincts of mankind. And if you by your action here, violate the principles of justice, you will feel, sooner or later, the scorn and contempt of the civilized world.

I said last evening that I came to this convention with very little hope of accomplishing anything. I did not even participate in the sanguine feelings of some of my friends that we should be able by our intercourse with gentlemen of this convention, in their introducing the measures that they term reform, to produce this result, at least that it should not be that repulsive sort of reform which overrides all common justice. I did not participate in any such hopes. I had seen that the mandate had gone forth from the city of Washington, emanating from the President, following up his enunciation at Springfield,