

tyrant! He it was who first initiated the policy by which our rights and liberties were stricken down. That man is George B. McClellan. Maryland, which has suffered so much at the hands of that man, will not submit to his nomination in silence. His offences shall be made known. This convention is a jury appointed by the people to pass upon the merits of the public men whose names would be presented for the support of the great democratic party. General McClellan, I repeat, is a tyrant. He stood here to indict him."

"Mr. Harris proceeded to say that General McClellan was an assassin of States rights, a usurper of our liberties, and if nominated he would be beaten everywhere, as he was at Antietam. He added that he could not go home and ask the members of the legislature of his State to vote for such a man. He would not himself vote for him." [His-es.]

Yet that man, the tyrant and usurper in Maryland, is going to receive the support of these gentlemen; and soldiers wearing the uniform of the United States government, which is denounced day after day in this hall in unmeasured terms, are asked to support him.

All I have to say in conclusion is, that my work in this convention is nearly done. This is perhaps the last time that I shall utter my voice in this convention, except to vote upon these propositions. I give my vote for this section with the same feeling that I gave my vote in support of the declaration of emancipation. I gave it with a full determination that I was doing what was approved by my conscience and by my God. I gave it with a determination that those who shall come after me when this war shall have been ended, and peace shall have been brought back once more to this now distracted land, will honor me for it. And if I am to die, be it sooner or later, be it the death of a martyr, or be it any other death that Almighty God may ordain for me, I shall never regret that I have not only voted to allow Maryland soldiers to vote to adopt this constitution as the organic law of the land, but that I have voted to prevent every man who is in sympathy with, or who has given any aid, comfort or encouragement to those in armed rebellion against the government of the United States, from voting either in favor of or against the adoption of this constitution.

Mr. STIRLING. I desire, Mr. President, to express some views upon this proposition that is before the convention; and as the time is short, I will endeavor to confine myself to the question of authority which has been raised in the debate by gentlemen who have addressed the convention. I will merely observe in commencing that it certainly strikes me with some surprise that gentlemen can profess, in the first place, their entire loyalty,

and the entire loyalty of their constituency, and then declaim, as they have declaimed here, against the effect of these obligations, even so far as to make the statement that they will disfranchise 40,000 of these very people that they loudly claim to be loyal patriots, highminded, and honorable gentlemen.

The gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) has alluded to this subject. He has not been so specific with regard to general political matters as the gentleman who preceded him, and I may almost express the hope, from the very fair course he has pursued on several occasions, I may at last have the privilege before the presidential election, of standing upon the same platform with him in the support of Mr. Lincoln, for I recollect his saying once before that he should prefer him to either Fremont or McClellan. I do not know whether he has changed his views on that subject as he did upon the question of representation according to population.

I will merely allude to the gentleman from Calvert (Mr. Briscoe) now, as to the "hereafter" with which he threatens us, to say, that, so far as my people are concerned, we think *this* is the "hereafter." I will reply to him that the loyal men of Maryland have got past the day of their evil things, and the gentlemen the day of their good things; and I can say to him, in the language of scripture, as was said to the rich man after he had lived in purple and fine linen, and gone to the abodes of the damned, "Thou hast had thy good things, and likewise these people their evil things; and now they are comforted, and thou art tormented." [Applause and laughter, promptly suppressed by the President.]

What is the difficulty? Gentlemen say that this constitution can have no force until it is adopted. So far as relates to its permanent provisions, I admit that it cannot, until it is adopted, and the time arrives at which it goes into effect. But I declare the doctrine laid down by the gentleman from Kent (Mr. Chambers) in his speech last night, and the doctrine laid down by the gentleman from Anne Arundel (Mr. Miller), that a proposed constitution must be submitted to the same constituency which elected the convention, is a doctrine that is not sustained either by the law or by the fact. I propose to prove that it is neither law nor fact. There are a great many constitutions, as they are contained in this book of "Constitutions," which do not give the provisions under which they were submitted.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I hope you do not attribute that doctrine to me?

Mr. STIRLING. I understood the gentleman to say that the same law which directed who should vote upon the convention, directed who should vote upon the constitution.

Mr. CHAMBERS. No; it had reference to