

a labyrinth without a clue, and in either case alike I should become hopelessly lost.

When I vote for this article, I shall do so because it declares a principle which I believe to be vital to our happiness as a nation. There is a difference between the sovereignty of the United States and the sovereignty of the State, and it is this: the one is paramount, and the other is subordinate. And the existence of both depends upon keeping each in its proper sphere. I shall vote for the article as it now stands.

Mr. BELT obtained the floor but yielded to Mr. CUSHING, who yielded to

Mr. KING, who moved that the Convention do now adjourn.

Several MEMBERS. Oh! no, withdraw the motion to adjourn.

Mr. BELT. Before the vote is taken on the motion to adjourn, I desire to say, by way of personal explanation, that so far as I am personally concerned, I am perfectly willing to proceed with my argument now. But I doubt whether this Convention, having been in session since ten o'clock this morning, are in a condition to listen to me for the hour I may occupy. But the gentleman from Baltimore (Mr. Cushing), if he will allow me to refer to him, will probably not want to occupy so much time as I will. And I would suggest the propriety of hearing him now.

Mr. CUSHING. I am willing to proceed now, or give way for an adjournment, as the Convention may desire, with the understanding that I shall be entitled to the floor upon this question, when we meet to-morrow.

The question being taken on the motion to adjourn, it was not agreed to.

Mr. CUSHING. Mr. President: I have no prepared argument to submit, nor do I design to go into all the political questions or make citations from all the different authorities who may have spoken at various times in the past history of our country upon the issues involved in the question now before this body. I merely wish to enter my protest, so far as I have the power, against certain statements and certain assertions which were made upon the floor of this House yesterday, and which, if not contradicted, may be regarded by some as representing the unanimous sentiment and belief of this body. There were statements and assertions contained in the argument of my friend from Prince George's, (Mr. Clarke) that struck me as so new, so utterly surprising and startling in their import and importance, that I would not willingly allow the opportunity to pass without at least entering my protest against their general acceptance.

He expressed opinions so strong, that they took the form of assertions in regard to the position of the people of this State at the time of the breaking out of the civil war in which we are now engaged. If I am not mistaken—and I do not think I am, for that

was the first thing that peculiarly attracted my attention—the gentleman asserts that at the beginning of this war, the people of Maryland, referring to those who then held in their hands the control of the policy of the State, were strongly Union; and had they in all respects been seconded by a governor differing in political views from the one who then occupied the gubernatorial chair, the State of Maryland would have interposed herself in favor of peace, and the civil war which now rages throughout the length and breadth of the land would not have been begun.

Mr. CLARKE. In my opinion.

Mr. CUSHING. In his opinion.

Mr. CLARKE. I made no assertions, only expressed an opinion.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair will take this occasion to say that if any member desires to interrupt one speaking in any way, he must rise and respectfully ask permission of the one occupying the floor to do so.

Mr. CLARKE. I meant no disrespect. I simply desired to say that I merely expressed my individual opinions yesterday, but made no assertions.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair did not suppose that the gentleman meant any disrespect. But as the Convention is well aware, so much time has been taken up heretofore by these interruptions, and so much will be taken up hereafter if the practice is permitted to continue, that the Chair desires to announce now that he will interpose in future to prevent these continual interruptions. A speaker has a right to characterize the remarks of another in any way he may see proper, provided he does not convey any imputation upon either the Convention or the individual member. If he does, then the individual member has the right to rise to a matter of personal privilege.

Mr. CLARKE. If the position of a member is misrepresented, has he not a right to make the correction?

The PRESIDENT. With the permission of the speaker.

Mr. CUSHING. I understood the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) to put his statement at the time in the form of an assertion, which he understood to be so generally admitted that it would meet with no denial. I will say to the gentleman that at the time to which he refers I happened to be living in a portion of this State where there was evident a sentiment which, if it had controlled the State, would most certainly have led to different results from those which the gentleman from Prince George's adverted to in his argument yesterday. I happened to live in a community where one single man, acting against the Government, presumed to arrogate to himself the whole power of the General Government, and to lay an embargo upon the commerce of the port of Baltimore.