

Let me tell gentlemen when they talk about the condition of Maryland to-day, to contrast that condition with that of Eastern Tennessee. Let us compare for a moment the effect of the supremacy of the Federal Government which we are called upon here to-day to assert, with the supremacy of a government represented by the commissioners who came to the State of Maryland asking her co-operation in this nefarious scheme of rebellion. Peace men the gentleman called them. Let us see the practical working of these States' rights men in Tennessee, where a majority of her people were in favor of remaining in the old Union of these States, which majority has never been denied, so far as I know, by the strongest advocate of secession, never denied even by Mr. Jefferson Davis himself. There in Tennessee, under the so-called Confederate Government, we have a people manacled and chained indeed; hunted like wild beasts—let the gentleman think of it—white men hunted to death by dogs, because they dare to say that they are in favor of upholding the government which their fathers made for them, and which for seventy-five years they have lived peaceably and prosperously under. Have gentlemen thought what it is to be under the supremacy of the Federal Government and under the supremacy of this other? One is to be as Maryland is here to-day; free, happy, her people in the enjoyment of every comfort of life, their houses uninvaded and undisturbed. The other means that the wife and the husband fly different ways, if haply the husband may divert from the steps of his flying wife, the murderous scent of the remorseless blood-hound. Does the gentleman think of this difference? That we go out here to-day upon our highways and breathe the sweet perfumes of spring flowers and hear the voices of birds, instead of being compelled, as those, to breathe an atmosphere tainted by the corpses of men dangling from the trees along the road side, because they were in favor of upholding the government of their fathers? That is the difference between Federal supremacy and Confederate supremacy, the difference between happiness and misery, the difference between heaven and hell, the difference of lying in the lap of the All-Merciful and being goaded by the tortures of the demons damned. That is the difference between the supremacy of the Federal Government and the supremacy of the Confederate Government. And God preserve the State of Maryland—(cries of "Amen" from all sides of the House)—that she may ever hold firmly to the faith of her fathers, that government for which they fought, for which they bled, for which they died, as a shield from every assault and from every sorrow.

And for all this which we have received from the Federal Government, we are asked to simply acknowledge our paramount alle-

giance to that government. Would the gentleman receive from the Federal Government its protection and every benefit that it can confer upon him, would he continue to live cradled in the lap of comfort and safety, and not even say to the power that guards and protects him—I yield you my allegiance and due obedience according to the Constitution and laws? I think it is but little in return for all that the Federal Government has done for the State of Maryland, that in this her first Convention since the breaking out of this war, she should speak in terms so clear and unequivocal that no man living can deny their meaning; that the historian of the future in looking over the record of to-day shall see that after three years of the experience of disunion and civil war, the representatives of Maryland in Convention assembled, first and foremost in her Constitution, did what the gentleman thinks to be sycophantic and unworthy, but what I know to be a thing of honor, a thing of beauty and a joy forever; that Maryland first of all the States before the congregated world asserted that she held her paramount allegiance to be due to the Federal Government.

The gentleman says allegiance to the government is measured by the protection received. Now Mr. Alexander H. Stephens, some six weeks before he took the place of Vice-President of the Southern Confederacy, when addressing the people of his native State, exclaimed: "Where, travelling the circuit of the sun, will you find a government which so perfectly and completely protects the right of every one of her citizens, as this Government of the United States." I fear me the temptation must indeed have been strong that in six weeks could have undetermined a nature that could have made that statement. But he has left the words on record, to the utter and eternal blackening of his own fame. And all repentance, through all ages, may not wipe out the infamy of the fact, that the government of which he could truly say that it had committed no act of aggression on any of the rights of its citizens, he could basely assail and basely attempt to destroy. Protection! what is the protection given by the State of Maryland? When the gentleman is in a foreign land, to whom does he apply for protection; the State of Maryland or the Government of the United States? Why, they do not know there what the State of Maryland is, even if they have ever heard of it. They do not know our State boundaries. Their journals gravely inform their readers that an election has been held in New York for a governor of Pennsylvania. Should the gentleman go into any part of the Mediterranean, would we say that he was a Marylander? No, but that he was an American, a word of significance wherever human foot has trod: a word of power wherever human voice has uttered the English tongue. It is