

gentleman might have left out that imputation upon our possible motives.

And now, in conclusion, I desire to say that there was one thing I regret most deeply in connection with the remarks of the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke.) It is that with all the eloquence with which the gentleman expressed his views yesterday, I heard not one single expression of hope that, aside from any question of the original cause of this war; aside from any question of right or wrong, even on his very doctrine of States rights, as a citizen of Maryland; I heard not one single expression of hope that the side on which the State of Maryland has arrayed herself should succeed; that he did not say before this Assembly—God be with my country right or wrong; that there was no expression of hope that the side to which his State has looked for help and protection might be triumphant. The gentleman told us that this war is waged for the oppression of one party; that it is one waged to deprive them of their rights and their property. But the gentleman should remember that for three years his State has arrayed herself with the party he thus charges with improper purposes; and he might have remembered that he is here to-day as a representative of that State. And he might, I think—following the example of chivalry of old, whatever the original wrong-doer—have held that so long as he was a representative of that State, he would sustain her be she right or wrong.

And while appealing to us eloquently on the score of the black man, and the heinous offence of taking away slave property, could he not have allowed to fall from his eloquent lips, one word of pity for the brave men, who by thousands and hundreds of thousands have offered up their lives and all they hold most dear, in defence of that great principle of universal liberty and freedom under which the gentleman lives to-day: that watchword of the nations, that all men are created equally free; could he not have indulged us, and gratified the kindest sentiments of his own heart, and by his eloquence have excited our kindly emotions for the thousands who have died on the field of battle, and the many thousands now suffering in our hospitals? The gentleman might have walked to that hospital almost within the sound of his voice, and seen the helpless and feeble there, and have reflected what an institution must be that which has induced men—I call them men, because I know not by what other term to describe them, unless I said they were beasts that do walk upright—what that institution must be that could induce them to so abuse and persecute unarmed prisoners in their power that the feeble shrunken frames of the few who have survived their tortures to return here are daily, ave. hourly, descending to the grave. If the gentleman's room had been near mine, he might day after

day, as I have so often done, have heard the funeral dirge of the brave men who in the pride of their youth and strength would have counted it no pain to have died upon the field of battle for their country, but who had been taken prisoners, trusting to the generosity of the foe into whose merciless hands they had fallen, and had come back here but the mere skeletons of former days, with hardly the power to drag their weary bodies to this place, here to die, far from friends and home, the victims of a cruelty that could feel no admiration for bravery, no compassion for the helpless condition of those in their power. I think, had the gentleman heard that funeral dirge day after day, had he seen the bodies of his country's brave defenders borne to their last resting place, and reflected upon what had brought them there, their dying moments unsoothed by any ministration of love and kindness except from strangers, his heart would have bled with pity; his pulse would have throbbled with indignation, as lifting his hand to Heaven, he would have sworn that under no circumstances could he ever uphold or believe in a doctrine which sympathized, in the remotest degree, with the doctrines of a class of men who would do these things.

I have not followed the gentlemen through all his arguments, through all his quotations; I did not intend to do so. I had no elaborate speech to make to this Convention. I rose simply to say the words that occurred to me while I spoke. But I do wish to protest once for all against the practice of selecting some single sentence from the record of a whole political life like that of Daniel Webster, and using it in contravention of the whole testimony of his life. It is easy to pick out here a blot and there a blemish in the life of a great man, but it is hardly fair argument. If the gentleman can find that the whole testimony of Webster's career sustained him in the doctrine of States' rights, then it would be fair for him to quote him for that purpose. If he can find that the decisions of the Supreme Court from the earliest days of the republic until now, sustain the doctrines he advocates, then it would be fair for him to claim them as authority. But I deny the right of the gentleman to quote Jefferson as authority in one instance, and deny him as authority in ninety-nine; to quote one decision of the Supreme Court as authority, and deny the authority of the nine hundred and ninety-nine other decisions; to refer to Webster and other great men as authority upon one point, and deny their authority ninety-nine times out of a hundred on other points. It is not fair, and the gentleman cannot expect us to be governed by such quotations and such arguments.

I have now but to say that one of the proudest moments of my career as a member of this Convention, will be that when I shall