

trifle. The Republic is on its trial for its life; and I say, black is the heart of the man who cannot say *vincit amor patriæ*—the man who will stand afar off and tremble amid the storm of war, or find fault with the government under whose broad and ample protection he stands. I cannot conceive what would be our circumstances were the American Republic to be once blotted out. I know no other nation as mine. I feel no squeamish feelings with regard to Maryland. Destroy the Government of the United States and I have no government. I would then be a wanderer in the land, and must wait until anarchy resolves itself into some substantial form in which I can make my selection, if I have such a privilege afforded me. Once blot out the American Republic, and destroy this great central life which now pervades the people of all these States; blot out this great central sun, and no one can imagine the consequences, from the tremendous forces left to act unrestrained by legitimate channels. Once let loose, colliding and running in fierce encounter, and it will crush and destroy all that was once beautiful and sublime. The heart sinks in contemplating such a scene.

Then, sir, I would say here, in an extremity like this, and it is especially applicable to the people of Maryland: *Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis*. To the Union men of Maryland I would say that our liberties, and all the best interests of our children depend upon the success of the American Republic. We are determined in the State of Maryland to adhere to it, and to say that Maryland is fixed and firm within the bounds of fidelity to the Government of the United States.

I shall vote for the article now before us, because I have no squeamishness with reference to this word "paramount." The fact that it has been used before, that it originated in feudal times or any other times, with reference to allegiance, amounts to nothing, so far as I am concerned. All words had their origin in some peculiarities at the time of their formation. We use the term to signify obedience, faith, obligation, fealty to the supreme government, rendered necessary by the condition of things as they are; and I shall vote for it for Maryland.

I shall now refer to the same thing that was referred to in the introductory part of this debate, in comparing the United States with the solar system, Maryland is the nearest planet to the great central orb. She revolves the nearest to the great heart of the Republic. It becomes her therefore to have her shield brilliant and bright, and to have her garments pure and beautiful while she revolves around that centre, that she may be in this hour of peril the first brilliant example to her sister States in the Union. I shall vote for the article, that she may be enhanced in bril-

liancy, and that the report may go abroad that Maryland, the nearest the heart of the Republic, has set an example worthy of the imitation of her sister States.

[Demonstrations of applause promptly checked by the President.]

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. When I came here to take my seat in this body, I came with great reluctance, not only on account of my own private affairs at home, but because I knew that the party with which I should act in this body, was so far in the minority that we could not hope for an instant to accomplish any good for our people. Ever since I took my seat in this Convention I have been gratified with the course of gentlemen upon the other side. I came here not to instruct but to be instructed, and I think there has not been a more attentive listener than myself to the proceedings of this Convention. I acknowledge in the majority of this body that courtesy which should always characterize majorities of deliberative bodies in their treatment of minorities. I have been gratified, as must have been every member of this Convention, at the proper observance of the rules of courtesy from one member towards another.

I have not only been gratified in that, but as I have said, I have been instructed since I have been here. I came here almost a novice in governmental affairs. I came here to be instructed; that instruction I have received, and I shall return home perhaps a wiser man.

A great deal has been said about the time that has been occupied in discussing this question. If gentlemen would recollect the importance of the subject, time would be no consideration. They would gladly spend weeks, nay, months, in elucidating a question so important to the preservation of the institutions under which we live. Time should not be taken into consideration when we are debating upon questions so vitally affecting the interests of the people. I appreciate time as much as any man. I know full well the value of a day. As a great English poet said:

"I've lost a day, the man that nobly said,
Had been an emperor, without a crown."

But, sir, in discussing a question of this vital importance, it is due to the question, and it is due to the body which has it under consideration, that we should give it a full, free and fair hearing; without that, we shall not have discharged our duty, either to the State or to the immediate constituency whom we represent upon this floor.

I had hoped that the chairman of this committee, (Mr. Stirling,) who, I am sorry to see, is not now in his seat, would have opened this debate, that we might hear from him why it was necessary to make so important a change in our organic law as this article of the bill of rights proposes. I supposed