

that as usual in deliberative bodies, the reports of committees would be supported by the chairmen of those committees. But up to this time the gentleman has seemed to fold his arms. He will not deign to open his mouth. As the oracle of his party he does not now choose to give us his oracular teachings as to the purposes of his committee in offering this article to the consideration of this Convention. But he as Pollock says of Byron :

" On the loftiest top
" Of fame's dread mountain sits, not soiled
and worn
" As if he from the earth had labored up,
" But as some bird of heavenly plumage fair
" He looked, which down from higher regions
came,
" And perched it there to see what lay be-
neath."

Or it may be that he proposes to—

———" bestride the narrow world
" Like a Colossus; and we petty men
" Walk under his huge legs and peep about
" To find ourselves dishonorable graves."

I am here in part representing the people of Prince George's county, as the peer of the gentleman. I only wish he had pursued the course which is ordinarily pursued in such cases, that we might have had from him oracular teachings of wisdom upon the proposition which he submits as an addition to our Constitution. I shall, however, abide his time. I shall wait, with an anxiety perhaps that never man felt, to hear that gentleman open his mouth, to hear him give the reasons why this inroad upon State rights, this monstrous article should be incorporated in our organic law. I shall perhaps learn from him whether we are here to make a Declaration of Rights, or whether we are here to make a declaration of wrongs.

I propose to examine into the course of other gentlemen before I approach the main subject. In referring personally to gentlemen, let me say that I do it with all due respect to you, as the President of this body, and to the Convention, and to the gentlemen to whom I may refer. It has always been my course to try to cultivate amity and good feelings with all persons with whom I am brought in contact. I have never yet violated that rule of courtesy which I hope will always characterize me in my intercourse with gentlemen.

I beg leave now to refer to our friend from Howard (Mr. Sands.) He seems to feel that the whole weight of this government is on his shoulders. He seems to have taken the whole responsibility upon himself. Like Atlas of old, he appears to feel that he not only has the world upon his shoulders but that the heavens itself rests upon him. Archimedes said that if he had a base upon which

to place his fulcrum, with his lever he could move the world. I am afraid my friend is in the category of Archimedes in this respect; that he has no base upon which to fix his fulcrum.

Mr. SANDS. Will the gentleman permit me to say this: If I had that base for my lever, and the power of Archimedes, I would lift these States rights heresies so high they would never come down.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I thank my friend for the suggestion. Let me add that he is not only in the position of Archimedes in that respect, but from the fallacies of his arguments and positions here, I will not say from the promptings of fanaticism, but certainly from erroneous reasoning, with all this weight and responsibility upon his shoulders, he is sinking into the quick *sands* of fanaticism so deep that I am afraid even Archimedes, with his lever, and with a base for his fulcrum, would never be able to raise him. My friend in his speech to the Convention took occasion to turn his eye in this direction, and ask if we knew the fate of Haman: he was hanged very high. Let me ask my friend whether he recollects the fate of Judas Iscariot, who, if I am not mistaken, sold the life of the Saviour for thirty pieces of silver, and then came and threw it down in contrition at the feet of the powers from whom he had received it, and went out and hanged himself.

Mr. SANDS. The parallel does not run between Judas and myself, because I have not turned traitor yet.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I beg now to turn my attention for a short time to my friend from Baltimore city, (Mr. Cushing,) who entertained us with a speech for which I tender him my congratulation; not for the matter of his speech, not for any conclusions of his, but for the manner. It was so beautiful that I might almost say it was an exotic. It was almost *fragrant*. I really enjoyed it; perhaps as much as any man on this floor. But my friend announced heresies here that need to be confuted, and I propose to confute them before I get through. I admired him for the manner in which he delivered himself, the boldness with which he announced his own views—for no other man upon this floor has undertaken to say that he was in favor of ignoring all State rights, that he was in favor of a consolidated government, and if I am in error I hope my friend will correct me.

Mr. CUSHING. Perfectly right.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. And he declared that it would be the proudest act of his life to be able to vote here for the entire extinction of State lines, and building up a consolidated government.

Mr. CUSHING. Not State lines.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I will explain that. I say that that was the necessary conclusion of the gentleman's arguments; for