

tleman from Kent (Mr. Chambers) says, but a gentleman much over half the age of the gentleman from Kent—a gentleman of wealth, family and position; in every respect a gentleman. That is the way in which this statement came to be made. And I am sure the gentleman from Kent will bear me witness that this is the statement I very freely submitted to his inspection.

I am perfectly willing that the whole matter shall go upon the record, only saying this, that instead of that statement inflicting one touch upon the fair name and fame of Henry Clay, it shows him to be, in the very language of that written statement, above any imputation, no matter from what source it may come. I only make these remarks as a matter of personal explanation.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I am not aware that the statement the gentleman has just made has impeached one syllable of my statement. As regards the age of the young man, I do not think he could have been at that time thirty-eight years old, as the gentleman supposes. How old is he now?

Mr. SANDS. I suppose largely over forty.

Mr. CHAMBERS. And this occurred some eighteen years ago, I believe.

Mr. SANDS. Mr. Clay was not on a visit to Mr. Carroll, but on a visit to Mr. Robert Hare, and staid at his house for a day or two and a night.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I understand it very differently. I understood from inquiry that he was there only a few hours. Is there any gentleman present who is acquainted with that fact?

Mr. LANSDALE. I remember distinctly the visit of Mr. Clay to Mr. Hare. It was while Mr. Clay was on his way to another place that he visited Mr. Hare in order to avoid the crowd.

Mr. SANDS. That accounts for the absence of a crowd that the gentleman from Kent referred to.

Mr. LANSDALE. Mr. Clay was taken to the house of Mr. Hare, where he remained some two or three hours. He may have made him a visit at some other time.

Mr. SANDS. I would ask the gentleman if Mr. Hare would make a statement that was incorrect?

Mr. LANSDALE. I do not think he would. I only state my recollection of Mr. Clay's visit.

Mr. CHAMBERS. Well, let it remain there.

Now, it seems that I have been myself arraigned; but I ought not to complain of being in company with him whose case I have just disposed of. It seems that some gentleman here has thought proper to refer to my course, and has presented me before this body as having forfeited the claim which I made at the beginning of this Convention, to be considered exempt from all party bonds. Now, I repeat, I have not been a member of

either of these parties that now prevail; either the abolition party, the league party, the anti-league party, the union party, the republican party, the democratic party, or any party by whatever name it may be called. Since the whig party had an extinguisher put upon it, I have retired from politics; and except upon some general questions in which I have been called upon to take some interest, I have never been at a political meeting and have never voted an entire party ticket. As far as voting was concerned, I have ever held it to be the duty of every citizen to vote. There is always a choice; there is a great choice now even between Fremont and Lincoln—a very decided choice; bad and very bad. I have always deemed it my duty to vote, and have taken the tickets of all the parties, and I have made out from them what I considered the best that could be made and voted that ticket. I am like a great many other gentlemen—*tempora mutantur*—there is no mistake about that. How far the balance of the quotation can be applied to me, is to be judged. I have not abandoned any political principle I have heretofore entertained. I put in a ticket for the last whig candidates—Mr. Everett being one of them. And I go for the Constitution and the laws; and I go for their enforcement; I go the whole figure.

I have been charged with inconsistency. I shall come to that bye and bye. But I tell the gentleman (Mr. Thomas) beforehand, that he may be bunting up his artillery; I shall defy him to show any inconsistency on my part. I may formerly have used words that had then a different interpretation from what they have now. I have only understood within a very short time what the word "government" means now. It means now, the President of the United States. Now that term has changed; I have not changed. It does not follow that I claim to owe allegiance to Abraham Lincoln now, because I claimed to owe allegiance to the Government of the United States heretofore; meaning by the use of that term, that system of control which the Constitution and the laws provide for the country; that system which the people choose to ordain for themselves—all the parts and branches of that system. It just occurs to me to inquire, if inconsistency be such a crime, who is to throw the first stone? It was in my day the universal opinion that Wendell Phillips, William Lloyd Garrison, *et id omne genus*, all cattle of that description deserved hardly anything short of the jail or the penitentiary. That they were objects of deserved execration. Still the people of that day did not think about stopping their mouths, or consider it a great favor to let them express their sentiments. But the result of that expression of sentiment was universal condemnation. Why, sir, an abolitionist was considered in this country very little better than one from the lower regions.