

She told me that she made me for the latter, and all my life long no one of that class of men has failed to see in my acts that I was answering her purpose, or had asked such a foolish question as that asked by the member from Prince George's. She further told me to beware of men wise in their own conceit, and that Solomon says there was more hope for a fool than for him; that I could always know them by their efforts to cry down their superiors; they would preach State-rightism, and they would be most ungrateful to those on whom they were most dependent.

He charges me with having an unyielding will of my own, and determined to have all things my own way. Sir, he never made a greater mistake. I have no will of my own in the matters before this Convention, except that of an humble individual; but it is the will and bidding of my constituents. They have sent me here to do certain work for them. It is a work that they have fully considered and discussed for the last three years. They have made up their minds what they determined to have done, and have sent me here with positive orders to do it, and I will obey.

He claims to be my peer. He may be so legally, but in fact, I deny it. My colleagues and myself are here each representing nearly 18,000 white inhabitants of this State, while he and his colleagues represent less than 2,500 each, and many of them of doubtful loyalty. He my peer? No, sir!

His taunt upon the State that gave me birth, (Massachusetts,) was so fully answered by the honorable gentleman from Cecil, (Mr. Scott,) that I will leave it with him and his own conscience to settle.

Now, sir, I would have gladly left him here had he not attacked my private character by calling me a "Mormon." That to me is the most detestable of all names, always excepting that of traitor. It is, in fact, calling me a traitor to my family. With me, sir, my God is first, my country next, and then my family. I am no traitor to either. Can the member from Prince George's say as much? The last census returns tell us that the community in which he lives, the constituency which he represents here, are largely more than one-half African slaves, held in bondage to the few white ones, and by them denied the marriage or family rights that are enjoyed by a free people; and, sir, how far Mormonism is practiced by him and his constituents I leave their yellow skins to answer. Mother Nature told me she had written it there, and I tell him to go and read for himself.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. In the remarks I submitted a few days ago, I expressly stated to this Convention at the outset, that any personal allusions I might make to any gentleman upon the floor were not intended as personal. I thought it was understood on all sides that all the personal allusions I made on that occasion were entirely playful; and

they would be understood by all sensible men to be nothing but playful allusions. The gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Abbott) seems to have become offended at some of my remarks.

Mr. ABBOTT. Not at all; I beg pardon.

Mr. BERRY, continuing. He seems to have become offended, and his ire has been so much stirred up against me that he proposes to make himself the Solomon to teach me wisdom. Now, let me tell him that with all his accumulated wisdom, his conclusions are as false as hell itself, and many of his references to me and my constituency are just as false. He supposed that I desired to be a wit; and he became very familiar with Pope in his caricature of witticism. Let me tell the gentleman I am not like him; I never aspire to be anything but what I am; and what I am I dare to be in the presence of that gentleman or anybody else. He speaks of my representing a county where the principal portion of the population are negro slaves. They were negro slaves. That was the fact at the time that census was taken; and it would be so now if it had not been for the roguery that has been practiced upon us by the party with which the gentleman is connected.

The gentleman also spoke of the doubtful loyalty of the people of my county. Let me tell the gentleman that he does not know the people of my county; and he studies human nature very little to form the conclusions he has as to himself. He knows as little about my county as he does about human nature. I tell him that if he or any other man says that secession prevails in my county, his conclusions are false; and I am here to defend that county against all such aspersions.

I want the gentleman now to understand, now and for all time to come, that if I purposed offending any gentleman, which I do not purpose ever to do, unless it becomes necessary and is forced upon me, I will show him in terms so unmistakable my intention that he need not go very far to interpret them.

I will leave the gentleman, folded in the arms of wisdom, the Solomon of this Convention. Let him look to Baltimore city, where I think he will find about as many yellow skins as he finds at any other place. I do not think he will find as many in Prince George's county. I do not know how near the location of the gentleman he may find a great number. Their paternity I do not mean to attribute to him.

I want the gentleman to understand me and my position here. I would like to ask the gentleman under what obligations I am to him. He speaks as if he had the direction of my life; as if he could control me, imprison me, enslave me, while I was ungrateful for the courtesies extended to me. I ask no favors at his hands, or at the hands of any other man. I dare do anything that doth become