

to any one to stand against the will of the people and interpose these straws of epithets, I would not deprive him of that satisfaction. A mad dog comes in your way and you shoot him. Forsooth, you go not after his owner to pay him. A wild bull rushes down the public highway, and you kill him; but you go not to offer payment. You kill him because he is a public nuisance in the highway, obstructing the rights of the people there. So the free people of Maryland have had their rights obstructed from the beginning of its history until now by slavery.

This kind of property alone, gentlemen tell us, is apparently to suffer by this war. But do gentlemen remember that no kind of property in this community has as yet escaped? Do gentlemen remember that more property has been lost already in this State from confidence in the chivalry than all the slaves in Maryland amount to? Is that class of property alone to be cared for? I have never heard an appeal to the State of Maryland to compensate citizens of the State for other losses from the effects of this war. If gentlemen desire that compensation shall be given, why not spread it abroad through the land to every man who may have suffered? Why pursue the same exclusive favoritism towards the slaveholder which our State has pursued from the beginning? Our eyes are open. We decline to be led by any such favoritism. Maryland to-day is not able to pay the losses by this war. If the losses already incurred by this war were to be paid back to the citizens in the form of a funded debt, it would load Maryland down so that she could never pay it. Forty millions of dollars to be paid by the State of Maryland to the owners of slaves! Twenty millions of dollars to be paid by the city, which I have the honor to represent, to the lower counties of Maryland for slaves. One third of the population of this State, in the city of Baltimore, does not see the equity of that proceeding. I can only speak for them. Gentlemen from the portion of the State from which all that makes the grandeur of the State, its future hope and its prosperity is to come, tell you that their constituents do not see the justness of that claim.

Is this property alone destroyed? It is safe enough in the taxes which it ought to have paid, and which it has not paid. Slaves for which the owners paid \$1,600 were taxed for \$400. The taxes have been upon the average price of \$250 for 70 years. No justice to any but the holder of slaves has been the constant cry. What became of the poor white man who was not a slaveholder—was beneath consideration?

The value has been destroyed and gone; and we are asked to pay for that which does not exist. Did the State of Maryland destroy it? The gentleman from St. Mary's (Mr. Billingsley) has told us not. Why, then,

should the State of Maryland pay for it? There has not been, so far as I have been able to hear, any objection to the General Government paying if they please. But that the State of Maryland should pay for a thing which does not exist, and which has no value, which by the testimony of the representative of one of our strongest slaveholding counties, Maryland has not destroyed, I do not see the justice of.

Mr. BILLINGSLEY. If the gentleman will allow me to interrupt him in the course of my argument I was frank enough to acknowledge that practically there was no slavery in the State; but if there should ever be a returning sense of justice hereafter, I looked to the General Government for remuneration. But if the Convention of the State of Maryland abolish slavery, as a local institution, we shall have no right then to go to the General Government for reimbursement.

Mr. CUSHING. If the evil of slavery was destroyed by the Federal Government anterior to the action of the State of Maryland in the adoption of this new Constitution, how could that possibly affect the claim? If the destruction of the value took place anterior to the action of Maryland, then the action of Maryland could only affect the then existing value, and could only operate upon the persons then held in slavery. I hold that blood and money enough has been paid for them all. While I do not intend now to indicate what should be the action of the General Government, I do say that what was once offered Maryland should not have been trifled with. People that offer money and have it refused, sometimes have grave objections to offering it again. There was an offer to the owners or holders of slaves to enlist them in the Federal army, and to be paid for it. You would have thought that the strong loyal counties in the Southern part of this State, animated by as pure a patriotism, as pure a love of country as exists in the whole State, according to their representatives, would have been delighted to have enlisted their slaves without loss for a fair value, that they might aid their country. But I have never heard that the slaveholders have come forward. I have understood that the General Government had to exercise its right to call upon every man that it pleased to come and give his aid; and that call was not upon the property of the slaveowner but upon the personality of the slave. And that, I would say to the gentleman, was a case which they had been taught as far back as the time of Solomon would occur; for their riches took wings and flew away.

There will come to Maryland, in the abolition of slavery, sufficient importance and sufficient prosperity to pay her citizens. It may come after long years, or it may never come, in the form of Maryland being able to