

if a division should take place. Continual civil war must therefore ensue, unless slavery shall be entirely wiped out. That it is the cause of this great rebellion, I most sincerely believe. This may be clearly seen from the speeches and extracts of Southern orators, and from Southern papers.

Mr. Stephens speaks of it as the very "corner-stone" of their edifice.

Preston Brooks, before his constituents, in justification of his attempt to assassinate Charles Sumner, said: "The issue is upon us, how can we sustain, perpetuate and extend slavery? The only way to meet this issue is, just to tear the Constitution to shreds, trample it under our feet, and form a Southern Confederacy, every State of which shall be a slaveholding State. Our only hope in the support of slavery is in the destruction of the Federal Government. I would not have an officer in our new Confederacy who would not swear that slavery is right. Let the slaveholders of the South rise above the Constitution and laws, take the power into their own hands and lay their strong arm upon the treasury and archives of the Federal Government."

Alexander H. Stephens, in March, 1854, said of the North in the House of Representatives, in a debate in regard to Kansas: "Well, gentlemen, you make a good deal of clamor over this Kansas affair, but it don't alarm us. You have often *threatened* but you have never *performed*. You always *caved in*, and you will do so again. We have got you in our power. You must submit to the yoke. Don't be so impatient as to complain: you will only be slapped in the face. Don't resist: you will only be lashed into obedience."

Rev. Mr. Prentiss, in a sermon preached at St. Peter's Church, Charleston, S. C., Dec., 1860, said: "The United States Government is about to be destroyed and another is to be built upon its ruins. That slavery is a Christian institution and the slave trade a Christian duty, is the one idea that underlies our secession and revolutionary movement, and the sooner the whole people, North and South, understand this fact, the better for us all. No compromise, no adjustment will satisfy the South which does not secure absolute protection and permanence to slavery and the slave trade, and permit its unlimited expansion."

These Southern leaders had therefore determined that slavery must rule, and that they would "rather rule in hell than serve in heaven."

But I thank God that I believe a brighter day is dawning upon the nation and State—the day of freedom and redemption. And freedom is indeed advancing throughout the civilized world. Since this cruel war has been raging here, the Czar of Russia has liberated 23,000,000 of serfs the good effects of which are already visible. And on the 8th of August, 1862, Holland proclaimed eman-

ipation throughout its American Colonies. Already the prospect of it here has prevented foreign intervention, the aristocracy of England and France both greatly desiring our destruction, but when freedom was proclaimed to be one of the objects of the war henceforth, (all other means having failed,) we struck a sympathetic cord in the breasts of the masses of our trans-Atlantic brethren, who then rose up and said to their leaders, hitherto shall thou go and no further. And soon a mighty reaction took place.

In conclusion, I sincerely believe Maryland will start forth upon a new career of prosperity and glory from the inauguration of this measure. I give it most cheerfully my heart and my humble efforts, because I believe it is imperatively demanded by the eternal principles of justice and right to a long, much injured and oppressed people. I feel it to be one of the proudest days of my life, that whilst acknowledging that humility and deep self-abasement becometh us as a State and people, to be able to give a helping hand to the removal of this great incubus and curse. I rejoice at the prospect that the day is at hand when every man henceforth that inhabits or treads Maryland's soil, can stand erect in God's bright sunlight and say, *I am a freeman.*

Mr. DENNIS. If the people of this State, as has been asserted, are dissatisfied with the progress this Convention is making in forming a new Constitution, the spirit of Theodore Parker or Lucy Stone, Lloyd Garrison, "et id omne genus," can at least rejoice at the progress of the peculiar notions, for really their disciples are making rapid progress in this Convention. The institution of slavery which has existed in this State for more than three-quarters of a century under the Constitution and laws of the land, and which fourteen years ago was declared by the unanimous voice of the Convention then assembled to make a new Constitution, should continue unchanged, not only finds opponents here to-day, but we have heard announced and advocated, in all their length and breadth, the doctrines of "the higher law," that slavery is "the covenant with death and league with hell," and this with an air and manner of earnest sincerity, amongst others, by the gentleman from Baltimore (Mr. Daniel) who, a few years ago, if not actually a slaveholder, certainly put them upon the block and exposed them for sale and sold them. And this day, "as a Christian man," his conscience is so troubled he cannot even tolerate "the institution" in the State. And he thanks God "that he has lived to give his vote to abolish it."

Mr. DANIEL. I sold them as trustee, and I do not recollect that one of them ever went out of the county.

Mr. DENNIS. He sold them "to the highest and best bidder"—true, he sold them as