

I then swore eternal vengeance on the institution of slavery."

At such times men become abolitionists, or they cease to be men.

Can a system endure which thus outrages all the finer feelings of our nature, which insults the memories of our Christian mothers.

"Morbid sentimentality" is it? I ask the gentleman from St. Mary's (Mr. Billingsley) to recall to his memory the period when the apostle Paul laid his hand upon the idol dedicated to the "Unknown God," and proclaimed to the astonished Athenians, "Whom ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you, the God that made heaven and earth." We hear the ringing echoes of that clarion voice across the centuries, and with it come the teachings of the Saviour. His disciples then were but a handful of men; the light which they kindled burned but dimly; and on through years and years of the dark ages, its flickering flame is scarcely seen. To-day its wide-spread effulgence illuminates half a globe, and we stand here this hour in the full light of the universal blaze of the Sun of Righteousness.

This is a Christian land! Nightly throughout its vast extent, little children kneel in prayer, taught by their Christian mothers to worship the God of justice, of mercy, and of love—those brave American mothers at whose knees, in infancy and youth, are trained the heroes of the world.

This is a Christian land! See the converse of the picture, yonder in that hospital, almost within sight and sound of this Hall, there was and is yet presented to our Christian gaze, a spectacle so full of horror that the soul sickens and utterance is lost to us. I cannot describe it. Who were the hell hounds that did this thing?

My friend from Baltimore city tells me the story of a man, an American citizen in one of these hospitals, who came here in the last stages of starvation, whose mind starved into idiocy, could only comprehend one fact, and as he lay an utter wreck, could only hold up before him his emaciated hands and chatter, "Starved to death! starved to death! starved to death!"

There is nothing in the annals of barbaric ages, nothing, however damning, heretofore considered or conceived, but is merciful and lovely as compared to the infamy of this "Christian" deed.

His Christian majesty enthroned at Richmond, adds to the infamy, (if that be possible) by announcing to the world in a State paper, that these brave men were dying from *home sickness*. That lie is the cap-stone to the monument he has buildd to his eternal shame.

Why this quintessence of the refinement of cruelty? Why make not only this nation but the world blush for ages to come for the shame thus secured to the whole race of man?

They might have been killed outright; for that mercy they could have been thankful. They might have been drowned in boiling oil, smothered in the cess-pools of the city, or flayed alive; and that were merciful. Whole hecatombs of them could have been heaped up around the infernal city, (immortal funeral pyres!) and burned to ashes, and their brethren could have found in this some grain of comfort. But to be starved to death by inches; to be months and months, that is to say, ages and ages, a-dying; daily and hourly dying, and yet not dead!

Whence come the fiends who can do such deeds? Their spirit is the real spirit which any system of human slavery engenders and invokes. Deeds that make other men tremble with horror are enacted frequently as a matter of course by the slave master or slave driver in the South.

Abuses of the system? but they are abuses which cannot be remedied by law while the law sustains the system itself, since it is of the very essence of any and all despotism that it cannot be restrained or regulated. And then comes this insatiate spirit of hatred which keeps even pace with its demands and is "more fell than anguish, hunger, or the sea."

The final argument that I shall urge in favor of the abolition of slavery in Maryland is that which has been repeatedly used in this debate. Slavery is the link that connects us with the rebellion, and it must be severed. Loss of property may ensue; what matter? immense loss of property has ensued from this rebellion throughout the whole of the State. I make the charge and challenge refutation that slavery was the cause of this rebellion; that the rebellion is to-day nothing more, nothing less than slavery fighting for power; and that inasmuch as we sympathize with, or attempt to bolster up, or defer the obliteration of slavery in this State, by just so much do we sympathize with, bolster up, and defer the crushing out of the rebellion; and by just so much do we add to the burdens of our already overburdened country struggling for life. Not for an instant of time, not by a breath from my nostrils, will I now or ever while God gives me life, approach or seem to approach by a hair's breadth, toward even the imagined commission of that damning deed.

Gentlemen are in favor of a return to the Union; there is but one road to that goal. It lies through universal emancipation in America.

I also am in favor of a reunion upon a more enduring basis. A basis now thoroughly understood in Maryland and expressed now in her organic law by the 4th article of the Bill of Rights.

And I may say here, that I do not believe the disorganizing idea of "States' rights"