

property without it becomes absolutely necessary to maintain your institutions? Had you not just as well take my life? My life and my property are held equally sacred under the laws.

The PRESIDENT. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BERRY, of Baltimore county. I move that the gentleman's time be extended.

Mr. DANIEL. I move to limit the extension to fifteen minutes.

Mr. BERRY, of Baltimore county. I accept that.

Mr. MILLER. I hope no limit will be put upon the gentleman's time, but that the precedent set in the case of the gentleman from Cecil (Mr. Scott) will be followed, and that the gentleman will be allowed to go on and finish his speech.

Mr. ABBOTT. The gentleman from Cecil (Mr. Scott) did not use over fifteen minutes.

Mr. DANIEL. Others of us upon this floor have been confined to that limit, and as the appeal is upon the ground of courtesy, I may say that we have allowed one of the gentlemen from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) about three hours for one speech and two hours and a half for another.

Mr. CLARKE. I beg the gentleman's pardon; not quite two hours. I commenced at twenty minutes after eight o'clock, and concluded a few minutes before ten o'clock.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. There seems to be no disposition on the part of the Convention to extend to me this courtesy.

Mr. SANDS. I trust the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Berry) will not take this as any mark of discourtesy. I at least do not oppose any motion to give any amount of time to him or to any other gentleman, because I wish to be discourteous to him. But there are a large number of gentlemen here who wish to be heard, and our time is limited. I hope the gentleman will understand this, and not think us discourteous, we certainly do not mean it in that way.

The question was taken upon extending the time for fifteen minutes, and it was agreed to.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I am very sorry indeed to trespass for so long a time upon the attention of this Convention. But I was induced to do so, supposing that the members of the Convention desired that everything that could be said in the way of argument, as peculiarly applicable to this question, should be heard by the Convention from any of its members. I shall, however, abridge my remarks, and try to conclude what I have to say within the fifteen minutes.

I ask the question, whether the gentlemen on the other side have either precedent or law for this proposed action against slavery? I deny that they have either precedent or law. They do not propose to do it under the war power. The General Government has

the right to take slaves under the war power, but they in that case are taken as property, and they should take only those who are capable of bearing arms.

Many gentlemen have said we must look to the General Government for compensation for servants liberated under the action of this Convention. Now, is there any reason in this? If they are liberated by this Convention, which I denounce as an outrage against our rights, the State will be responsible to the owners, and for those freed by any action of the General Government the General Government is responsible; but responsible to whom? responsible to the individual citizen. No, but they are responsible for all they have taken under the war power, to the master, through the Government of the State of Maryland. The Governor of this State has sworn to support the Constitution and laws of this State, and he is bound to protect the rights and interests of every citizen, even if it requires the whole force of the State to do so. He is required to pursue the same course for the protection of the citizen of the State, that the General Government is required to afford any citizen of any State when in a foreign country. But will they pretend to say that the Government of the United States is responsible for the slaves liberated by this Convention? Has the Government of the United States anything to do with the action of this Convention? If it has, I would like very much to know it, because I might then understand this pandering to popular opinion; this crouching at the feet of the powers that be; this seeking to lower the standard of true citizenship; this disposition to bow at the feet of the President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair must say to the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Berry) that he is rather transcending the rules in thus reflecting upon the members of this Convention.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I did not suppose I was transcending the rules. I did not intend to do so. I use strong language because I feel that this is an important question, and one that should be heard and discussed in plain language. I do not mean to offend gentlemen. I cannot control their actions here, and do not propose to do it. If I were to speak here for a week and could bring to bear all the wisdom of Solomon, I could not inspire your minds with my standard of patriotism, or a spirit in which you would listen to and receive those teachings in the spirit in which I give them, nor do I suppose that a vote would be changed. But, as one of the gentlemen said yesterday, I intend to put myself right on the record.

Then, I say, do you suppose the General Government can be looked to to pay us for the negroes now held by their owners? The General Government has taken a large number of them for military purposes, or under