

teen years of age, from their parents, and it is made a penal offence to do so.

Mr. SANDS. If my friend will allow me to make a remark here, I am sure he is aware that the provision in regard to marital relations among the slaves in Louisiana, do not exist because of any State law. That is a part of the French code which existed there at the time we acquired that territory by purchase.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. In answer to that I will say that so much greater the virtue in retaining it as a part of their code. They would not change it, although their Legislature had the power to do so at any time. Instead of changing it, they continued it in operation. They saw the virtue in it. It was a wise and moral provision, and necessary to keep the slaves happy and contented among them, and to make them useful Christian people.

I have notes here which would, perhaps, occupy me an hour longer, but I will not trouble the Convention except to say that whilst you in your mad career—

Mr. SCOTT. I move that the gentleman be allowed to extend his remarks till he gets through.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I want only a few minutes more.

The question was taken upon the motion to give the gentleman further time, and it was agreed to.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I only desire a few minutes.

The PRESIDENT. There is no limitation on the gentleman's time now.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I will not certainly intrude my remarks upon the Convention further than to say that you who are now engaged in this wild career against this institution, must take the responsibility upon your own shoulders. Not only in overriding all State laws, and ignoring the rights of the citizen, but in destroying an institution which is upheld by the law and the Gospel. Let me suggest to you who are prepared to do so much injustice, that before the vote is taken you may have an opportunity of going into your closets and there communing with your God. I hope He will enlighten and teach you that fanaticism is not religion. That injustice is not justice; that falsehood is not truth, and He will make you wiser and lead you to look to this subject in a true light, and to consider whether your State or the slaves will be benefited by the passage of the measure, and to consider seriously of the injustice that will be inflicted upon the master. If you will do this and do it in sincerity and truth, and not under the excitement of the moment, but with a desire to be led to the proper conclusions, I think you will come back here better men, with different conclusions and different purposes, that you will, under His holy teachings, be able to

say boldly upon this floor before High Heaven, that you will henceforward be governed in every action in life by the immutable principles of truth and justice, and not by the teachings of fanatical parties. Then, and not till then, will you have done justice to yourselves, justice to the slaveholder and slaves, and justice to your State.

Mr. MARBURY. I did not intend saying one word further upon this question. But what I have said was said within the hour, and I hope that in consideration of that fact I may be allowed, merely as a matter of explanation, to set right certain historical facts, and to reply for a few moments to the gentleman from Cecil (Mr. Pugh.)

Mr. PUGH. I certainly cannot consent to that, unless I am also allowed the privilege of replying to the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Marbury.)

The PRESIDENT. One of the rules of the Convention requires that no member of the Convention can be allowed to speak twice upon the same question until every other member of the Convention who desires to speak has had an opportunity to do so. If no other member, who has not spoken, desires to speak, the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Marbury) can speak again. But if there be any other gentleman who desires to address the Convention upon this subject, he must be first heard.

Mr. BARRON. Well, Mr. President, I desire to say a very few words upon this subject. You need not be alarmed.

The PRESIDENT. I am only noting the time at which the gentleman commences his remarks.

Mr. BARRON. You need not do that. I will not detain you the hour, you may be sure of that. I wish to do as some other gentleman are doing here; I want to put myself exactly right upon the record, and in doing this it will be with no expectation upon my part of converting any one in this Convention over to my side. For I do assure you that I am perfectly confident that at this moment the lines are drawn as tight as they possibly can be, that they will not vary more than the needle from the pole. I do not expect to convert anybody to my side of the question, and not even the Apostles if they were here to-day could convert me from it.

Now, in the course of my remarks, it is very likely that I may say some things that will be as radical, as extreme North, as gentlemen upon the other side are extreme South.

And before I go any further, I must pay my respects to the gentleman from Kent (Mr. Chambers.) I was taught to believe that he was pretty nearly one of the worst men in the world; upon honor I was. [Laughter.] But the other day he got up here and deliberately said to this Convention that he had been a whig as long as there was any whig