

ing the improvements and prosperity which will follow the banishment of slavery from Maryland.

Now, a few words, Mr. President, if you please, on the desolation which slavery has brought upon *its own special home* by the war which it commenced and still persists in, for making itself the controlling element of this continent, as well as our own country. Owing to the self-reliant population which such communities as Baltimore and many of the Eastern cities had contributed to the South during the previous twenty years, and the emigrations thither of many skillful mechanics from such portions of the old world as Germany, England, Scotland and Ireland, that section of our country was making quite a rapid development of her manufacturing resources, and beginning to take giant strides in works of internal improvement. Maryland and Baltimore had sent from our workshops machinists and mechanics by the hundreds, to help her along in the new career upon which she had started. Favored by nature with a genial climate and productive soil, immense deposits of iron and coal in all her mountain ranges, and an unlimited water power, flowing from these wooded heights to her navigable streams, all the South wanted was a few more years of peace with all the world and a kind welcome to all settlers from the land of ingenuity and enterprise to place her foremost among the favored regions of the earth. But, as I remarked at the beginning, with evidences pouring in upon them from every source, of an indisposition on the part of the then triumphant anti-slavery party to disturb their institution of slavery, the same restless and insurrectionary spirits which rudely dissolved their connection with most of their party friends in the north-east and north-west, heedless of warnings from all friendly sides, *madly rushed into this war for the overthrow of the Government*. They wished no further connection with any State whose people did not admire slavery. They separated from their sister States and declared and *commenced war* against this administration for the better security of slavery; but, Mr. President, what has been the result thus far? The blows which have been struck by the government, purely in self-defence, have depopulated large strips of their territory of slaves, and the tread of our powerful and conquering armies promises soon to liberate the remainder. This, however, is a trifling calamity, brought upon the South by the insanity of her controlling politicians, compared with others. In the neighboring State of Virginia, we see on the east and on the north and north-west an extensive region of country devastated and desolated by the frequent marchings and "restings" of contending armies. The most luxuriant and fertile fields of Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee no longer bring forth their rich abun-

dance, and with these deprivations come the destruction, whole or partial, of their works of internal improvement, their commercial marine, and their profitable commerce with home and foreign States. Surely, this is not the entertainment to which they invited their deluded and now suffering people? How thankful ought we of Maryland to be for our escape from the destructiveness and personal privations which are everywhere visible within the domains of this slaveholders' rebellion. Had they and their active sympathizers in our midst succeeded in dragging Maryland into line with the seceded States, I am rather inclined to believe that the gentlemen on the opposition side of this Convention would have something much more serious to complain of than our present determination to make Maryland a free State for the future. Judging from what transpired in Virginia; our farmers would scarcely have been left with a single enclosed field to cultivate, nor a single forest from which to collect the material for re-enclosing them. Slaves, farms, forests and fruit-trees would all long since have been swept away, so far as "turning *either* to useful account" is concerned.

Slavery being the great offender which *insisted* upon having this destructive and desolating war, and subjected to so many privations and losses thousands of women and children of the South, in addition to the hundreds of thousands of lives sacrificed, or made useless, and countless families clothed in mourning, and the anxious agent for making Maryland the battleground of the war, and covering every acre of *our territory* with darkness, desolation and blood, it is meet and proper that it should be severely punished, and the members of this Convention should take a part in inflicting the punishment. Its heinous and grievous *sins*, whose tracks are visible in every part of the South where its war has penetrated, have earned the *penalty of death*, and that is its doom in Maryland, which I wish to see sealed at the earliest possible period. Not only should *we* of the "Government party," as we are termed, sentence this offender to death, but it strikes me that the members of the opposition on this floor ought to raise their hands in devout gratitude to God for *their* escape from the desolation to which Virginia has been subjected by the ambition of slavery, and join with us in casting an unanimous vote for the article of the Constitution now engaging our attention. With free labor once properly organized and distributed throughout the State, we shall undoubtedly soon flourish as other free States have so long flourished; and though we may have to endure a little reproach from men of the present time for the temporary inconveniences arising from their delay in preparing for a change which they certainly long