

Keefar, McComas, Mitchell, Miller, Mullikin, Murray, Noble, Nyman, Parker, Pugh, Purnell, Russell, Schley, Scott, Smith, of Carroll, Sneary, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Sykes, Todd, Valliant, Wickard, Wilmer, Wooden—50.

Mr. STIRLING. As there is a quorum present, I move that further proceedings under the call be dispensed with.

The motion was agreed to.

The question recurred upon the adoption of the resolution submitted by Mr. COVING.

Mr. STIRLING. I perceive there is a disposition on the part of a certain portion of this house to endeavor to prevent being placed in a position, which, whether rightfully or wrongfully, they seem desirous not to be placed in. Now, I am desirous that the time of this Convention should not be spent in discussions of such matters as these, but that we shall proceed to the consideration of matters more directly before us. I would suggest, therefore, that there be a general understanding that the yeas and nays shall not be called. I do not desire to place any gentleman in a position that he does not like to occupy.

Mr. DENT. As one of the other side, the opposition, alluded to by the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stirling,) I would say that I am not unwilling to appear on the record by yeas and nays. And I am willing to stand or fall by my vote on this resolution.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I heard, while at the door, a statement of the contents of this resolution. I have not yet heard it read.

The resolution was then read.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I was about to say that I regret exceedingly that this resolution should have been offered. It is a perfectly well-known fact that there are several gentlemen in this Convention who are in the condition I am in. Two branches of my family are resident in the South. They went there long before this unfortunate civil war occurred, long before the first elements of this contest appeared. I have relations there near and dear; I have children and grandchildren in the South, who did not go there for the purpose of engaging in this contest, but who were resident there long before this war began.

Now, if sympathy is correctly understood to mean any feeling of regard, of course I cannot but sympathize with my own flesh and blood. I can say with my hand on my heart, and with a clear conscience, appealing to the Supreme Being who knows every word and thought and act of my life, that so far as I understand the laws of my country I have not violated them in any one particular; I have not afforded aid or comfort to the enemy; I have not done anything unbecoming a loyal citizen of the State of Maryland, or of the United States.

Why, then, place me in the condition of

expressing a sentiment which, construed in one way, that revolts every natural feeling of the human heart—the feelings which must be in the bosom of every man who is sensible of the very first element that God Almighty has planted in his soul—that of affection for his own offspring; or on the other hand, put it in the power of persons who are malignantly disposed, to say that I am a sympathizer with the South, with the enemy of my country, and disloyal? Is there any advantage to be gained by it? When gentlemen attempt to put their friends and neighbors and associates on this floor in this position, *cui bono*—to what end? Does it do any good to the country? Does it do any harm to the enemy? Does it accomplish any purpose upon earth except to gratify,—if there be such a feeling anywhere, which I trust there is not—to gratify a malignant desire to embarrass honorable and respectable gentlemen by placing them in a position where they must do one of two things, either of which is offensive to them?

I therefore do say, while I regret the introduction of this resolution—while I think it out of place, not at all in conformity with the objects of our presence here—the objects for which we were sent here—not promotive of any object or any particular end which the Convention by its organization was intended to accomplish; while I regret it on this account, still I thank the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stirling) for the suggestion he has made. I do think he is entitled to the thanks of the whole Convention. I would much rather the resolution should be withdrawn, and that the feelings of gentlemen who occupy the condition I have stated, should not be wounded by their being made to do one of two things, either to vote for the resolution or against it.

But I rose to express my acknowledgments to the gentleman from Baltimore city for the kind effort on his part, to save the feelings of gentlemen, who, in my conscience, I believe—and for one I know—to be as faithful citizens of the State as any individual who can use on the one hand the most offensive terms, or on the other, terms of the highest admiration; and I say this in a feeling of all kindness, with a disposition to avoid irritation, with a desire to see the business of the Convention proceed legitimately, without being interrupted by exciting questions that can produce nothing but mischief.

Mr. COVING. I would like to explain the reasons which prompted me to introduce this resolution. I was prompted by no personal feeling of any kind; by no desire to put gentlemen who are members of this Convention in any false position. But I conceived it eminently necessary and proper, while the soil of Maryland has been and is now invaded by the enemy, many of them citizens of Maryland who have left her soil for the