

purpose of waging war against the country; while within the borders of this State, and near many of the cities of this State, armed invaders have been despoiling and murdering our loyal citizens—I did feel that it was eminently proper that this Convention, representing the people of Maryland, should leave on record that in this time of the nearness of the enemy, they thought it meet and right to express our continued devotion to the Union, and our desire to preserve it at every hazard. And I do hope there is in this Convention a spirit that would lead us, even if the enemy were knocking at our doors, to fling them as bold and free a defiance as if our soil was free from the foot of the invader. I do not understand why any citizen of Maryland, with the voice of her people so strongly and decidedly against the invasion of her soil, should not be prompt to rebuke the invader.

This is almost the first instance in the history of nations, where there has been the slightest degree of reluctance on the part of the representatives of the people of a State to rebuke those invading her soil. It has not been alone those who agree with me in political sentiments who have suffered. Even those who have sympathized with this rebellion have been sufferers. I do think that this Convention, without any personal feeling, but as an eminent duty to the people of this State, in its position to a certain extent as the leaders of public opinion in this State, should express themselves clearly, unmistakably and loyally.

I agree perfectly with the suggestion of my colleague (Mr. Stirling,) that if this resolution is allowed to pass quietly, I at least will not demand the yeas and nays. But I was sorry that those gentlemen who did not desire to go upon the record upon this proposition, had not quietly intimated that no opposition would be made to it, and requested that the yeas and nays should not be called. In regard to what the gentlemen from Kent (Mr. Chambers) has said about natural sympathy, I can well understand that sympathy of blood may exist, while we deprecate the act of those near and dear to us; that the sympathy created by the ties of blood might be very strong, and that the heart of the father and brother may bleed at the necessities of this war, while his loyalty might condemn the act of those thus dear to him. I have no doubt that when the Roman Brutus put his son to death, his heart was torn by paternal affection and feeling, though he felt that duty to his country required that his own hand should aim the blow at the life of his son. It is solely against the act that this resolution is offered; that the people of Maryland should not do what no other nation or people mentioned in the history of the world has ever done, if they would preserve their existence as a nation or people, sympathize

with those who have invaded their soil, and not rebuke them.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I ask permission to remove what, from the remarks of the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Cushing) might by some be supposed to be the motives that operated upon me, in what I said to the Convention a few moments since. The gentleman took the ground, not objectionable at all, of a patriotic expression of sympathy with the Union on the part of this body. I say again—I have had occasion once before to allude to it—that there is no man in this body, I do not care in what terms he can express himself, who was more opposed to the collision that has been brought about, than the person who now addresses you. And I go further, and say that there is no man in this body who has done more to prevent it: I was a member, and the presiding officer, of a body that met under the name of southern rights for the purpose, as far as we could, of taking some steps to secure what we supposed to be our constitutional privileges. There were one or two individuals—for I believe there were not more, although the character of that meeting has been very much belied—there were one or two individuals there who were then advocates for secession. And I claim the credit of thoroughly extinguishing any effort of that kind made on that occasion.

I have been at other public assemblages; I have published other speeches; I have addressed the constituency of my county on this subject. There is the record. I have not drawn up resolutions expressed in idle terms, or offensive terms, or fulminating terms, or in any other kind of terms, for the purpose of going abroad. But I have deliberately in my office, in my closet, in my home as well as elsewhere, publicly pronounced and declared this state of feeling and opinion on all occasions. There is no one who regrets more than I do the disastrous consequences resulting from a dismemberment of this Union. It does not follow, that I agree, as ten thousand others do not agree, to the mode by which its restoration has been attempted. The most distinguished men in the country, men whose patriotism is undoubted, beginning with President Lincoln himself, have doubted whether the means adopted were the best. At one time they thought that coercion was the very means of continuing this dismemberment.

I have no objection to any resolution which expresses our desire to see the Union re-established; which expresses our regret and our sorrow at its dismemberment. What I regret is the disposition to place me, under the term of sympathizer, which is susceptible of so many constructions, in a position where I must denounce the political sentiments I entertain by voting against the resolution; or on the other hand by voting for it.