

Are these men to be tried by their peers? It is an insult to a loyal community that such men should be allowed to live, and yet they live there to-day, as free as the most loyal man in Maryland who is ready to sacrifice his life in her defence. They live there protected even now. When the cry was raised that the rebels were approaching; when it was said, "they will be here to-morrow night," their constitutional privileges were respected, although not a single man of them was found volunteering to protect the city of Baltimore from the approach of these marauders. Not a single contribution was made, except those forced from them, to feed the men who came from Fortress Monroe to protect them, except when a man went in and told them, "I want that money;" "I will not give it to you;" "If you don't we will take you out of your place very quick," and the money came. Not one expression of sympathy was heard for those wounded in those engagements—nothing but jeers, nothing but mockery—"how do you like your picnic?" and such things as that. Nothing was heard in the streets but mocking and jests, because the thing had turned out thus; no expression of sympathy for any of our men, but in several cases it was declared that the old man Day ought to be hanged for resisting an authorized force.

This state of things is unparalleled in the history of this State or of other States. The history of our Revolution bears no comparison to it, for then the strong arm of the law was put upon them. But the secessionist has been protected by both sides. You have had every opportunity to put them down, and yet the grossest secessionism has been tolerated in the State of Maryland. I say that it is necessary now to crush it out, if we have to drive out half the population of this State. They claim that they are able to control the action of the State of Maryland to-day, and carry it out of the Union, if they were all allowed to vote. If that be true, it is time that the Union men of Maryland should declare that those who claim the power to disturb its whole political status and destiny should leave the State.

These two sets of people are so radically opposite that they cannot live in peace together. During the whole time of the excitement in the city of Baltimore, it was a question with many Union men whether it was safe for them to go out and turn their backs upon the city of Baltimore; whether they would not be attacked both in front and in rear. It became a grave question whether there was not a sufficient force in the rear to side with the enemy and turn the scale.

I say it is enough to have to fight one side, without fighting both, and though it should take one-half the people of this State, or more, I would assess them in the first place

for the damage done to loyal citizens, and then I would have the name of every man who lived in the State registered, as having taken the most extreme oath of allegiance to the Union, or if he should decline he should be banished from the State of Maryland. A man was arrested in the city of Baltimore, a few days ago, under suspicion of being connected with Harry Gilmer, and brought to the provost marshal's office to take the oath of allegiance, and he considered himself grievously insulted that such a thing should be required of him. Will any one tell me that that man, refusing to acknowledge his allegiance to the government at such a time, has any rights under the State of Maryland, or its laws, or its constitution? I much question if any one who does not sustain the government in this war, has any claim to any protection whatsoever.

If the bill of rights is to stand, let it stand as a whole. If it makes our allegiance to the constitution, laws and government of the United States supreme, let every citizen hold to them quite as strongly as he holds to the right of trial by his peers. Any man in the State of Maryland who does knowingly sympathize with this rebellion, does not take that bill of rights. That one thing in the bill of rights, I will guarantee, will prevent a single vote being cast for this constitution in the State of Maryland by any known sympathizer with the rebellion. As to the bill of rights, I much question if there will be found one man who is against paramount allegiance to the government of the United States, who will vote for this constitution in any way, shape or form. I much question if nearly every one of these men did not vote against holding this convention. I have no doubt that every man of them is ready to vote against this constitution when it shall be presented to the people, notwithstanding the protection of their liberties in the bill of rights. I much question to-day if any man of them would not rather take this State over to the tender mercies of the Southern Confederacy, where a bill of rights is unknown; where trial by peers has long ceased to exist, where every man is at the autocratic will of a despot, than to keep it in the Union under all these beneficent provisions of the bill of rights.

There is not a man in the rebellion to-day, who can be safely intrusted with the keeping of one principle of liberty. There is not a principle of liberty remaining in the heart of any man who sympathizes with the rebellion. It is in form autocratic, despotic, and not fit for a free government. There never will be found a supporter of the rebellion who will be willing to support a system of free government like this. A few of the richest men must do as they please, and the rest of the community must execute their behests. That is their doctrine.