

which has been manifested upon this floor to find somebody responsible, and upon whom might be levied compensation, for all the damages arising to private citizens, loyal sufferers, by reason of the present unfortunate civil war. It seems that not only our own government, our own State or federal authorities, are to be guarded against and indemnified against, but that even the acts of a public enemy, with whom we are at war, open war, and have been for more than three years past, in their invasion of our State, against whom we have a right to claim protection from the State and from the government, are to be compensated for. Loyal sufferers whose horses or other property have been taken by the public enemy, are to be indemnified, are to be paid. But those who by your act, in the adoption of this constitution, lose their property, shall not now from any source, shall not hereafter from any source in the State of Maryland, receive one dollar of compensation.

My friend from Howard (Mr. Sands) the other day thought he had found a justification of the course he then recommended, because General Wallace had levied contributions upon those who had shown their sympathies, upon the burning of a barn, or something of that sort. That was carrying the principle to an extraordinary extent in a free government. But that was upon the idea that that act had been done by some one in political spite, and as a punishment to a loyal neighbor; upon the idea that they would be disappointed in their attempt and prevented from repeating the act; if the neighborhood were made responsible for the act and made to pay for it. That was carrying it quite far enough. But this idea of compensation was so fixed in the gentleman's mind, and so fixed in the minds of the convention, as just in itself and proper, that you carried it beyond any act done by our own citizens, which we make neighborhoods responsible for, and actually extended it to the acts of a public enemy, who came across our undefended border and committed an invasion of our rights and privileges.

Now, I submit whether any principle of consistency does not require that those who are so exceedingly sensitive upon this question of compensation, should have a little consideration for those who may lose other species of property than horses and mules, or greenbacks, and are suffering beyond the extent that some of them seem to have suffered, and against which they have a right to look for protection to the government. Consistency will require that they shall take into serious consideration whether they ought to close the door to any hope of compensation hereafter from the legislature of Maryland or the people of Maryland for the slaves that may be emancipated under this constitution.

I should suppose that those who invited the President of the United States, and the com-

mander of this military department in violation of every provision of our State and federal constitution, and laws, to make an illegal and unauthorized assessment upon any part of the people of Maryland for the acts of the public enemy of the United States, would have thought it their bounden duty to leave open the door for compensation to be made by the people of Maryland, through their legislature, whenever a sense of returning justice, and calmness, and the proprieties of government, should convince them that such compensation was necessary, and that it was an act of justice; that those who now suffer from the action of the government upon this agitated question, might entertain the hope that in the future they would receive the compensation to which they are entitled by the plainest fundamental principles of government.

I have never believed until this morning, and am still reluctant to believe that the convention would have this article in the legislative department. I was not here when the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Berry) made his speech. I understand from my friend from Kent that that gentleman declared that upon the question of compensation, he and his delegation had instructions and were committed. I do not know to what extent. I regret that that gentleman is not in his seat here to-day. We have barely a quorum present. I do think that our action upon this proposition is fraught with results of the most weighty importance in reference to a large portion of the citizens of the State.

Upon a proposition which goes to the extent that sufferers by the emancipation of the slaves of Maryland by the act of this convention, if it shall be adopted by the people, not by the people who are to be affected, but also by the people who have no interest in the institution, to the extent of \$30,000,000, \$40,000,000, and at the present prices of labor \$50,000,000; that they who are thus to suffer are to be shut out from all hope hereafter of any compensation. I had hoped that we would at least have waited until the convention was full that we might have a vote of the entire convention upon it, to see whether or not, upon reflection, the convention would not strike this article entirely out as moved by the gentleman from St. Mary's (Mr. Dent.)

Can there be any harm in that? Those who suffer now by this act will always be in a minority in the State of Maryland. You will adopt a ratio of representation here that will forever exclude them from the political power of righting themselves by their votes. You will put them in a hopeless minority. Is not that sufficient?

[The half hour having expired, the hammer fell.]

Mr. Huss moved the previous question.

The motion was seconded by Messrs. SOWLER and PRUGH.