

gentlemen would only look at this calmly for a moment they would see that it does not effect them, if they are friends of the Union.

We must exist or perish. We propose to exist rather than perish. We know who are our enemies. They are those who are against the existence of this government, and against the existence of this people as a people, the existence of the form of government handed down to us by our fathers. Those are our enemies. Those are the enemies of the gentleman from Somerset; because we have all taken the same oath here; and I do not doubt their full intention, to sustain the government of the United States, and the constitution of the United States, and the laws made in pursuance thereof, as they have sworn to do. It is for their protection as well as for mine. Where is the hardship? It applies to none but our enemies.

Do the gentlemen object that the Union soldiers should go out and kill rebels? Do they object to crushing out the rebellion in every possible way? I have not heard one of them object to it. What their sentiments may be I know not. If they do not object to that, why not be consistent? These rebels being here—and gentlemen will not deny there are plenty of them in the State of Maryland—if they propose to injure our cause in any other and meaner way than by going and taking up arms and fighting manfully, where is the hardship of excluding them or of preventing them from doing us that injury? What a farce it would be to go out in the field and shoot down the rebels, what an infamy it would be to shed blood in this way, if we were constantly to overlook the fact of our enemies being in our midst; constantly feeding the flame of this war, by allowing them in our counsels, by giving them the power, which is the strongest power, of voting for the coming man, for instance, as has been suggested by the gentleman from Somerset (Mr. Jones.)

But, says the same gentleman, let all these things be forgotten. Let us forget that there is any war. I have no doubt that if I could only get into the amiable state of feeling indicated by the gentleman from Somerset (Mr. Jones) I might arrive at his conclusion, and let these things be forgotten. It is absurd. We cannot forget when our house is in danger. We cannot forget when the whole land is convulsed in the civil war now raging, of which no man can foresee the end.

But he further suggested that there might be a coming man who would quiet all these troubles. He did not name any one. I have no doubt at all the gentleman will know shortly after the 29th of August. I know that several have been suggested as the coming man. Does the gentleman from Somerset come here and say that that coming man, the representative of that party, be he George B. McClellan, or James Guthrie, or Judge

Nelson, Millard Fillmore, Vallandigham, or any of that tribe—does the gentleman pretend to say to the convention that each one of these men whose names I have mentioned here is not a representative of our enemies to-day? that all those I have named are subverting this republic to-day? If the gentleman denies that to be the fact, I tell him that if time is given me I can show him by their words uttered and by their conduct, as always displayed by each one of those gentlemen, that there is not south of Mason and Dixon's line, a more bitter enemy to the nation, as we understand it, the people of the United States, and certainly not a meaner enemy, because they are really fighting for their cause at home, and doing infinitely meaner work than fighting in the field, than these same men I have mentioned.

Go with me to the city of New York; I have been there in the course of my business repeatedly; and I undertake to say that there are to-day more rebels at heart—I do not mean people squeamish about the construction of the constitution, but I mean Jeff. Davis' men; I mean people in favor of the slave trade, people in favor of the system of slavery as a system; that there are a majority of voters in the city of New York to-day, more bitter rebels, certainly meaner ones, than can be found in the city of Richmond.

If this coming man should happen to be a representative of these enemies of our country, when he comes into the chair what will be the result? I shall put it as mildly as I can, for the sake of the gentleman from Somerset. In the first place, the system of slavery will be protected, so that it cannot be destroyed; for these gentlemen are all in favor of a reconstruction of the Union with the system of slavery sustained and secured. I do not admit that the rebels in the south are at this time prepared for reconstruction; but if there is to be reconstruction they demand that the corner-stones of that reconstruction shall be the re-establishment of the system of slavery, and the prevention of its being destroyed by any of the incipient movements that have already been made towards its destruction. That is to be the result. Slavery is to be re-established. We will take the old battered ship and fix her up as well as she can be fixed up under the circumstances, if it is possible to fix her up at all. I do not think it is possible, but that is what they will try to do. They will try to patch it up again, and set us adrift.

What is the result? What can possibly be the result under these circumstances? If we could go on for a few years with this same system of slavery in our midst with this same cause of disturbance in the country, if we were to be set afloat again under these circumstances, the result would simply be that the war would be deferred. The result would be that,