

bring the question up properly before the convention, whether they will permit these remarks to be spread upon the journal of debates or not; whether they will act upon it before the member from Talbot has an opportunity of explaining himself. After the gentleman from Talbot shall have explained himself, the entire matter will be before the convention for their judgment.

Mr. CUSHING. I understand the chair that it would be an act of assumption for the president either to allow it to go upon the record of debates or to refuse it. Do I understand that it cannot go upon the debates without an order of the body?

The PRESIDENT. No, sir; everything that is transacted in this body is to be faithfully reported, unless the convention shall otherwise determine. The convention have the power to control their debates and proceedings. They have the power to expunge, if they choose, a portion of the journal, or say that a portion of the debates and proceedings shall not be entered upon the journal of debates and proceedings; and so far as that is concerned, to exclude it from public consideration. They have the entire control over this matter. The president has no control over this subject, further than to see that all proceedings of whatever nature, whether in the shape of personal matters or otherwise, shall be conducted in the forms prescribed by parliamentary law. It is for the convention to decide whether this matter shall be entered upon the journal. Of course the convention will not exclude the gentleman from Talbot (Mr. Valliant) from the privilege of making any personal explanation that he desires.

Mr. VALLIANT. I understand that the question as to whether or not any discussion that may arise between the gentleman from Kent and myself is to be entered upon the journal, is a question to be decided by this convention. I apprehend that if it be allowable that whatever explanations are necessary to be made, should be made, the explanations should first be made, and the question discussed afterwards whether or not it be entered upon the journal.

I understood the gentleman from Kent (Mr. Chambers) to say that I had said in my remarks made here on the twenty-third article of the declaration of rights some time in last June, that Mr. Williams had given money to my brother. Now, sir, here is the speech reported in the debates:

Mr. CHAMBERS. I wish to say that I was not here, and knew nothing about it, and professed to know nothing about it. I saw it so reported.

Mr. VALLIANT. I will read the remarks:

"And further, if we undertake to compensate the loyal slaveholder, we will soon have to compensate the disloyal also. It will be an easy matter for the disloyal a few years hence to come forward and prove by testi-

mony, competent in law, that in 1864 they were loyal men—were opposed to the rebellion and never aided it by word or deed. Mr. Thomas P. Williams, of my county, who in the month of May, 1861, persuaded my boy brother, George Enos Valliant, then a boy but seventeen years old, to go down to Virginia and there defend his native south from the inroads of northern goths and vandals, and offered to pay the expenses of ten young men to go and do as he urged my brother to do, and other things too numerous to mention, will be able to bring some one to swear that he too has ever been loyal, and thereupon base a claim for compensation, and thus the State will be obliged to compensate the loyal and the disloyal alike, and will also be obliged to compensate the sufferers to whom I have alluded in the western counties, (which latter our legislature has already refused to do.) And in doing all this we seriously threaten our State with bankruptcy."

It is "and offered to pay," not that he did do it. My information is not that he did it, but that he did not do it. When my brother went and threw himself in the way of Mr. Thomas P. Williams, so that Mr. Thomas P. Williams could fulfil the obligation, and comply with the offer he had made to my brother, my brother said he did not pay him the money; but he said he offered to pay not only his expenses, but the expenses of nine other young men, and other things too numerous to mention. My hour had been consumed; but if it had been a matter of consequence that I should mention these things, I would have done it. And now that the matter has come up, I intend to mention these things, and they are things which in my county are a matter of public notoriety, known to every man in the county.

In the month of May, 1861, I was the guardian of my brother, who was then but seventeen years of age. He came to me and asked me for money sufficient to take him down south. He said all his sympathies were with the south. He believed that upon the great questions which had just been submitted to the arbitrament of the sword, the south was right. The northern people were going down to invade their rights, and he wished to go south and help defend their rights. "And I demand of you as my guardian," he said, "to furnish me the money to take me down there." I declined to do so. I declined to furnish him the money. Said he, "It don't make any difference; Mr. Williams says he will furnish the money, and I am independent of you anyhow." I am willing that the stenographer should take this down and to have the matter investigated in a court of law if necessary. Whenever this matter comes up before a court for trial, my brother comes as a witness upon the stand, if he is alive, and I will have him thoroughly interrogated. I am now willing to