

Mr. PETER. In our county it was done, and a fresh election held.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. There was a fresh election in that district, and here are the men elected to represent that county. Then there has been no interference save in one election district, and that has been remedied, and here are the gentlemen as the result of it. Nobody has protested against it. Yet here is foreshadowed, and gentlemen's remarks this morning have foreshadowed precisely the same thing, their resistance if they happen to be in the minority, with all the means and power under their control? And what are the means and power under their control? Gentlemen will know, if they remember, that within the past few days, in Indiana, hundreds of thousands of rounds of fixed ammunition have been ferreted out, and thousands upon thousands of the best navy revolvers. These are some of the "means under our control" which are to be used in maintaining the purity of the ballot-box, and the fairness of elections.

I say then that the opposition to this article is not designed, and does not tend to promote the purity of the ballot. What is the pure ballot? Where the citizens of our State can declare their preference for the man of their choice. What did our fathers say when they formed their constitution, and how stood it in the constitution of Maryland always until 1850? They had no scruples on this point. They said in the convention of 1776:

"Art. 6. That the right in the people to participate in the legislature is the best security of liberty and the foundation of all free government; for this purpose elections ought to be free and frequent, and every man having property in and common interest with and an attachment to the community ought to have the right of suffrage."

They believed that an attachment to the community was essential to the right. But now men appeal to the bullet from the ballot. And then when defeated with the bullet also, they claim the right to appeal from the bullet back again to the ballot, and under conditions of their own dictation.

That same convention went further. Gentlemen say that we are tyrannizing. Let me read another order adopted in 1776 in this very hall:

"Ordered, That no person who has refused or neglected to subscribe to the association (unless from religious principles,) be permitted to come within the doors of this house during the sitting of the convention."

That shows the spirit of that day, when it was said, and said truly, that every man having an attachment to and an interest in the community, who designed by his vote to uphold the interest of the community, and he alone had the right to vote. But now men suppose that treason is to stand on an equal footing with loyalty to the laws and to the constitution of the country.

But, Mr. President, not only have we a clear right to adopt this as a means of self-defence, not only have we the revolutionary right, in the language of this resolution, and of members here, to meet revolution, if necessary, by counter-revolution, but we have at all times the right to maintain the government against revolutions. Men institute a revolution; appeal to bullets; and then complain if we do anything more than to fight. They set your house on fire, or come with the torch to do so, and then complain that you do not confine yourself to the legitimate business of pouring on water instead of striking down the hand that is applying the torch. Is there any doubt as to our right in this matter, that it is as much a duty to strike down the hand as it is to pour on the water? When all these great interests are at stake, we are bound to take efficient measures to protect ourselves against the repetition of these outrages. If gentlemen will resort to resistance "with all the means and power under our control," they can do so. I know not what effect it may have on others, but for one I am ready to meet whatever in that line may come.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. So am I; so am I.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE continued: We have seen this resistance inaugurated. It is threatened now to be brought north of the Potomac and to be inaugurated elsewhere if the people shall presume to cast a majority of votes against the man of their choice. The instances which we have witnessed for the last few months, even while assembled here, and in our own State, show that all is fair and right if we get the majority, and all is wrong and a shameful violation of the constitution and to be resisted, if we fall into the minority. If that be the ground, let it come.

Mr. CUSHING moved the previous question.

Mr. MARBURY. Will the gentleman withdraw that motion for a few moments? There is one statement I want corrected.

Mr. CUSHING. I will withdraw the motion if the gentleman will renew it.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Daniel.) The gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Marbury) had the floor before the motion for the previous question was seconded. The gentleman can proceed.

Mr. MARBURY. The gentleman from Baltimore city who has addressed the convention (Mr. Stockbridge) attempted to show this convention that in the various elections held in this State for the last two years there had been no military interference, and said he had not heard of any military interference whatever. Now I will inform him that at the last November election, which elected the legislature of which he was a prominent and distinguished member, at that election, in my own county, a company of military, under the command of Colonel Baker, a government detective and general military superintendent for our county, came down to our county seat,