

that this country could not stand divided, but must become all one thing or the other. In a few months after his inauguration he issued his proclamation telling the people of Maryland that this work is his peculiar work, and that it had been the philosophy of his life and must be accomplished. I happened to be in your legislative halls at that time. I resisted it then. In a very few months I saw the standard of abolitionism raised in Maryland. It hoisted its banners and called on the people, but in a few months after, on the 10th of March, 1862.

(The allotted time under the order, twenty minutes, having expired, the hammer fell.)

Mr. THOMAS. I had intended to say nothing on the subject before the convention; and I have sat quietly in my seat this morning and listened to sentiments, emanating from men of Maryland that have actually made my Maryland blood boil in my veins. The gentleman who has just taken his seat proclaims to this convention that he came here expecting nothing, and that he goes away not disappointed. In my humble judgment he could not have paid a higher compliment to the majority of this convention than when he uttered that sentiment. He expected nothing. I came here to abolish slavery; and thank God, my vote has helped to do it. I came here to rid the State of Maryland from this curse of slavery, because just such men as the gentleman who has just taken his seat had used the slave power to bring upon us the very troubles of which we are now endeavoring to rid our country. He thanks God that there is a time of vengeance that is to come.

Mr. BRISCOE. Not vengeance. I did not use that word.

Mr. THOMAS. At the time when the avenger comes, he will meet you and me, and give us our deserts. An outraged and indignant people will meet us at their bar of judgment, and they will mete out to us our deserts. What have we done, that an avenging God and an avenging people are to visit upon us the violence of their wrath? Have we deprived men of their liberty? We came here to give men liberty; and we have given it. Have we deprived men of their rights? We came here to give men their rights; and we have done our duty, thank God, nobly. In so far as the avenging judgment of God is concerned, I have an approving conscience in me that tells me that I have done right; and I can stand before the same bar of God and render up an account for the deeds that I have done, alongside of the gentleman from Calvert (Mr. Briscoe.) And in so far as standing before the bar of the people is concerned, I have got the same nerve to meet whatever fate the people choose to award to me as he has to meet the fate awarded to him. Threats coming from what quarter they may, cannot intimidate me in the honest discharge of my duty.

This constitution is to be submitted to the

vote of the people of Maryland. I for one will never give my vote that that constitution shall be submitted to the disloyal people in Maryland. I want a loyal constitution. I have endeavored to make a loyal constitution. And so help me God, if the lightnings of heaven shall strike me down when I utter it, or if the knife of the assassin is to drink my blood hereafter because I have uttered it, no rebel, no man in armed rebellion against this government, no man who sympathizes either directly or indirectly, or who has given aid, comfort or encouragement to those in armed rebellion, shall by my consent ever vote upon this constitution. Am I right? If you are to have blood, drink in your blood. If you are to have peace, meet me half way and have peace. But am I to have peace when my brother has been murdered in cold blood by those hell-hounds who first brought on this war; desolating my happy home? And because gentlemen who dare to get up on this floor and express their sympathy for these men are not to be allowed to vote, that is sufficient cause for vengeance to be meted out to me.

Gentlemen have said here this day what I thank them for. They have said that George B. McClellan was their candidate. I am glad of it. The speech of the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Marbury) was made for the ears that will soon hear it, to be carried along to them at their camp-fires, to ask them to vote for this noble patriot. All I have to say to the soldier is to take up the speeches of the opposition of this convention, who have been giving their sympathy to those in armed rebellion; and then put alongside with them their indorsement of George B. McClellan, their adhesion to him as their candidate, and their determination to support him; and then let the soldiers consider upon how many battle-fields they have fought, how dearly their brothers and companions have spent their lives, what desolated homes and firesides they have left; and if they can then vote for the candidate that these gentlemen will vote for, then my confidence in Maryland soldiers is gone.

Gentlemen take exception to the test oath as to the adoption of this constitution, and say that the soldier has no right to vote for it. The more honest and brave of them tell us that they want the soldier to vote for their peace candidate. The soldier is not good enough to vote for your constitution, but he is good enough to vote for George B. McClellan. I had intended not to say one word upon this matter; but I would respectfully refer gentlemen to the speech of their own representative, delivered in this peace convention which nominated this pure patriot, whom they will now support, and see what Mr. Harris, of Maryland, said there about him. Here is his language:

"One was nominated here to-day who is a