

on James river all the while. He is indeed the peace candidate in one sense; it has been suggested with a great deal of force and propriety, that he never did the rebels much harm; and therefore ought to be regarded as a peace man.

As the gentleman from Baltimore city, who has just taken his seat, has said, this is a general and comprehensive proposition. It applies with equal force to us and to the gentleman upon the other side. It makes no discrimination. It does not allow men to do as has been done in previous elections, select out some individual against whom they have some enmity, and for the purpose of exciting him and perhaps preventing his voting, challenge that man. But it makes every man take the oath. What oath? An oath of allegiance to the government of the United States. An oath to protect this government which protects them. If I entertained in my heart the sentiments which I know are ranking in the bosoms of men in my county and throughout this whole State, the blush of shame would mantle on my cheek, and I should feel like a felon if I should dare to offer to vote in the State of Maryland. They have no sympathies here. Their prayers rise to high heaven for success to the rebel army. They look with delight on conflagration, to see the fiery figures of flame dart up in the air, destroying the homes of our own citizens, and kindled by rebel hands. They look upon it, in the shades of night, while it makes thousands homeless, and they feel that there is music in it. The constitution can be violated in every letter and in all its spirit by Jeff. Davis and his minions, and they are satisfied. Yet if Abraham Lincoln departs one scintilla from its provisions, for the purpose of protecting the government and preserving it from destruction, he is to be arrayed before the world for all time as a tyrant and a usurper.

After all, how much better is General McClellan. If the gentleman who represents the first district of Maryland in Congress is to be believed—and will any man tell me that he is not—he says, and he says truly, that he cannot go home to Maryland and ask his constituents to vote for the man who drove the Maryland legislature out of their seats. But says the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Marbury) he acted then as a subordinate. Where is the evidence? He acted on his own authority. His whole life shows that his heart was at first engaged in this contest; and if he had listened to the speech of gentlemen to-day he might well say in the language of Henry Clay, "God save me from my friends;" for he is put in the same category with that most execrable Don Carlos Buell, who said, while he wore the shoulder stars of a major-general, that he had no heart in this contest. I believe George B. McClellan is made of better stuff than that. I believe he has fallen into the

hands of men who are using him for their own base purposes. I believe that let alone he has a high, generous, honorable nature; but I do not think he has the material in him to crush out this rebellion; and I would rather trust it to the powers that be. I believe that those who nominated him desire his election. I believe his election will be promoted by federal defeat. I believe as a necessary consequence therefore that those who desire his election desire a federal defeat.

Ought any man in this loyal State of Maryland to be permitted to vote who does not support the Union? I find no fault with gentlemen for entertaining sympathies with the south if they choose to do so. I find no fault with gentlemen for disagreeing with me on that subject; but if a man has them he must keep them within his own bosom. He has no right to contaminate the purity of the ballot-box by testifying practically to his treason to this government.

Now as to the vote of the soldiers. Last winter, when this discussion was going on in the senate, I looked on, and considered the subject, and took a great deal of interest in it. I heard the gentleman representing Baltimore city in the senate, nobly and patriotically impress upon the minds of the senate his views upon that subject. Who is more entitled to vote than the brave soldier in the field? Why do we retain our privilege of voting? Why are we not driven away from our homes? It is because they have bared their breasts against the bullets of the foe.—Leaving all the endearments of life, they have perilled their lives on the altar of their country for our advantage; to sustain the Union and all that makes life beautiful and holy.—Why should not Bradley Johnson, general commanding in the forces invading our State, be permitted, pistol in hand, to vote according to law? He is only temporarily absent, discharging a high public function in the south. A renegade Marylander, leading a tatterdemalion host of renegade Marylanders, he appears before Cumberland, and demands the surrender of our American flag on the penalty of utter annihilation. Yet that man, unless we restrict the vote, is just as much entitled to vote as I am. It is a proposition upon its face and its terms utterly absurd, that we should permit it. No man has a right to vote, and no man should be permitted to vote who does not believe in the supremacy of this government, and whose heart is not in the maintenance of its integrity and in the suppression and crushing out utterly and forever of this foul and accursed rebellion.

Mr. BRISCON. I should like to know upon what authority it is said that a man who comes within the provisions of our present constitution; unless he takes the oath of allegiance, is not entitled to vote in this State.—Has any court so decided? But if they do not pay any more attention to the oath of al-