

Maryland. Treason is made a little thing throughout this State; nothing has been deemed treason unless you deliberately go out in open arms against your country to destroy its defenders. Now I want to express my opinion upon the floor of this house, that there are many minor grades of acts which constitute treason.

And I comparatively honor and esteem the men who, believing that this constitution had been violated by the northern States, honestly believing that the right of revolution was there and that the time to revolt had come, have openly and honestly taken their lives in their hands, and gone gladly off to risk anything for what they believe to be right, rather than those men who have remained at home and attempted to undermine and stab secretly their government, who, not going out into the field, not even going out into the community with clear voice and uplifted hand, speaking or acting against the government, but have, in their own secluded localities, or in the coteries of their own friends, uttered treason against the United States and have incited others, bolder, braver, better men than they are to do the deeds of arms which they shrank from doing. That is not only treason, but it is treason complicated with cowardice.

If I could have got a more stringent oath than this, I would have had one that would go where this does not go, to the thoughts and wishes of men. There is no one political right under the constitution of the United States or under the constitution and laws of the State of Maryland, which inheres to any single individual who desires the success of the so-called southern confederacy. He has by his own wish, by the operation of his own heart, put himself beyond the pale of the protection of those laws or those constitutions. I hold him to be an outcast in the world, without any country whatever. The southern confederacy spews him out of her mouth, because he has not gone and helped her in her hour of trial. The State of Maryland will have nought of him, except that fervent prayer and wish that he may go beyond her borders. No land under the broad rule of almighty God calls him its child. The southern confederacy cannot be called his country, for it does not exist. Every time its flag has been seen beyond the confines of its own domain, it has been in reality the black flag, the death's head and cross bones of the pirate, although the red and the white of "the stars and the bars" were painted over it as a thin disguise.

Into this question, and on the floor of this house, has been dragged by the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Marbury) a matter which I had hoped would never have been spoken of in this house, without all the indignation, all the deprecation, all the sorrow that the English tongue could give, or the energies of any man here could prompt him to pour out before this body. He has dragged

before this body the emaciated limbs, the idiotic intellect of the starved and the dying, aye, the dead, of our brave heroes in the prisons of Richmond. He has dragged them forth and mocked and jeered at their sufferings, by saying that the government of the United States have traded for political capital upon the photographs taken of these men in the hospitals in our State. He has thrown the blame of these barbarities, the like of which were never before heard of except in the Black Hole of Calcutta, and even there only dimly shadowed forth—he has thrown the blame of these atrocities upon the government of the United States. He had not one word of indignant protest in the sight of God and man; he made not one single assertion that any man with a heart for freedom or any love of humanity in his bosom, would be expected to make, or who could ever be supposed under any circumstances, or contingencies, or conditions, to sympathize with, or desire the success of, do otherwise than hate and condemn and scorn those who would commit such atrocities.

Why, sir, it would be better to go forth into the wild forests of Germany and lie down with the unfed hungry bear, than to fall into the hands of these civilized, christian southern chivalry. It would be better to make one's bed in hell, for there the almighty God could be with a man and sustain him, than to fall into the hands of these high-toned gentleman of the nineteenth century.

The gentleman from Charles (Mr. Edelen) complains that we do not act consistently on this question of the soldiers' vote. I trow we could act consistently; we could do as Mr. Jefferson Davis has done—refuse the votes of these forty thousand men of Maryland, spoken of here to-day, on the ground that we believe them to be unsympathetic with the cause of the government. That would be consistent; that would be carrying out the strict line of justice to its full extent. But we have tempered our justice with mercy. We have put into this constitution an oath of such a character that if any man refuse to take it, he ought never to vote in Maryland or even to live. There is not one single provision in that oath, given as it is to every voter in the State of Maryland, which ought in the slightest degree to stir up the remotest particle of repugnance in the breast of any loyal man. I shall find no difficulty in taking that oath. It does not make me at all feel as if the iron heel of the oppressor was on my neck, or as if any instinct of freedom in my heart was being crushed out. I would be willing to swear that oath every time I voted, from now until my lips grow cold in death, without feeling that any single privilege of mine had been curtailed.

It is to me a thing strange, and a thing incredible, that constituencies announced upon this floor to be as loyal as any man upon the