

rights democrat. The chairman of the committee says we must put an antidote to the poison, and yet it is proposed to insert a clause of the federal constitution which has been tortured into a construction which every man of this Convention would repudiate and spit upon. Why, if the antidote must be given, should it be given in such doses as will kill the patient slowly?

Mr. Stoddert deeply regretted that an allusion had been made in this body to party politics.—This Convention represented the sovereignty of Maryland, which knew not party. There was not a man in the State of Maryland who had not a deep and essential interest in the constitution of the United States as understood by its framers. Maryland had never parted with her sovereignty. She and the other States had delegated certain powers to be administered by the federal government.

The war was fought upon the dogma which was maintained by the modern interpreters of this clause, this State was invaded under it, and the civil rights bill passed under it, and the tendency of it was to end in a consolidated despotism. He stood here for his State to oppose all despotisms, whether federal or any other.

Mr. Marbury said the words which fell from the lips of the gentleman from Charles, (Mr. Stoddert,) "The sovereignty of Maryland knows no party," were words which he hoped the action of this Convention would immortalize. They should be put in letters of gold on the State House. They were assembled here under the most peculiar circumstances. For years past he has been so crushed, so cramped, so bowed down that his feelings now, when he breathed the free air and stretched his arms in liberty, he could not express. He was one of the delegates from his county to the Convention of 1864, and he and those he thought with him, were crowded into a small corner without voice and without influence, and it was only by the exercise of the sharpest legerdemain that they could ever express their views, but none of their suggestions were acted on; the leader of the dominant party from Baltimore had conceded the justice of some of them, but said he could not vote for them, as there might be something hidden which was not then apparent.