

that no property can exist in anything based on slavery, or which can be traced back as the *product* or *offspring* of slavery, and the Government in its work of "advancing the great principles of human rights and eternal justice" should destroy this property without any compensation. Suppose the Government, in all the instances I have recounted will pay nothing for these various kinds of property. They advance, says some loyal man, the national cause, they contribute to the suppression of the rebellion, they aid the Government. It is a badge of disloyalty to ask compensation for any property which so materially contributes to the overthrow of rebels. We will pay you nothing. You surely are too loyal to demand any compensation for what so aids the national cause! Would not the *moral* sense of the people of the North be shocked? Aye! would you not, gentlemen, be *shocked* at this action of the Federal Government, if any action taken by it could shock you? Would the people of the States submit? Would not New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts, nay, would not every State, *interpose* and say compensation must be the *condition* upon which alone the property of the citizens shall be taken? And yet, this is what you propose to do, Mr. President, in order to gratify the people of the North, viz., to take away the property of the citizen of Maryland without a tittle of compensation. Is it asking anything more than justice that *compensation* shall be the *condition* upon which you surrender the wealth and domestic institutions of her people? Congress has pledged the Government to make an appropriation. Is it doing too much to make that a *condition*, which the Federal Government by direct implication admits should be a condition? Is it a wrong to *test* the good *faith* and *sincerity* of the proposition? If Congress fails to make the appropriation, then you have, Mr. President, secured your citizens in their rights of property, and you have not ruthlessly deprived them of that for which you cannot compensate. But adopt the article proposed by the committee, and suppose Congress does not make an appropriation; then the property of the citizen is gone, you have no compensation to tender, and we ourselves, as an aggregate body, have done that for which the *penitentiary* would be the reward if we committed it as an individual act.

(The time having again expired, the hammer fell.)

On motion of Mr. MARBURY, the speaker was allowed to finish his remarks.

Mr. CLARKE. I thank the Convention for this courtesy shown to me. Before proceeding, I will remark, that if any gentleman will say that he will now take the floor, I will yield it to him and decline to go on. But if no gentleman desires at this hour to commence a speech, I will ask the indulgence of the House a little longer.

But, Mr. President, if the amendment I proposed should be adopted, we will not fail to secure the appropriation. Let Maryland assume this position; let her say to the party in power we will emancipate on these terms and not otherwise, and the appropriation will be made as *surely* as there shines a sun above us. What is twenty millions of dollars, nay what would be fifty millions of dollars in these days when the Government issues its promises as fast as the manual work can be done, compared with the failure of the scheme of emancipation in Maryland? I have already shown the reasons why the emancipation policy in Maryland is a scheme of *paramount* importance with the Administration. Weighed in the balances with these considerations, the mere appropriation of a sum of money, no larger than a week's prosecution of the war involves, would be a mere feather. And you, gentlemen, who on this floor represent slaveholding constituencies from Talbot, Howard, Worcester and Caroline; and you, gentlemen, from Baltimore county, all of whom I have understood to express yourselves in favor of Federal compensation—aye, pledged to secure it to your people if your action can do it—you now have the good faith of your principles and pledges put to the test. Reject my proposition, pass the 28d article, and fail hereafter to obtain compensation for your constituents, and I here arraign and charge you with the responsibility of having defeated their best, nay, their only chance for compensation for property taken from them. You had an opportunity to redeem your pledges and you failed so to do.

Mr. SANDS. If the gentleman will permit me to interrupt him, I will say now, as I have stated previously, that I stand pledged before the people of Howard county to use all my efforts to secure compensation; but not as a condition precedent at all. They expressly rejected placing it upon the ground of a condition precedent.

Mr. CLARKE. My idea of the mode of upholding the rights of my constituents is: