

States declined the President's proposition." Is the opinion of the Intelligencer, vindicating in a grave and solemn form the truth of history entitled to no weight? Has this able journal become too conservative for the radicalism of gentlemen of the opposition side of this Convention?

Besides, the bill itself contemplated extending the time in which emancipation would go into effect until January, 1865. My proposition accords with the time fixed in that bill. Sir, the statement is the cunning subterfuge of a class of men who have always *hated* slaveholders, who *hate* them now, who never meant in good faith to be their friends, and whose conduct has proven them to be actuated by a venomous spirit and a single desire to injure them, to calumniate them, to oppress them, and to insult them by language which they would not dare to use except for the fact that the bayonet shields them, and which when that bayonet is removed, and all men stand once more upon a common platform of equality, they will not dare to repeat.

Mr. President, much harsh language has been used in this Hall, and throughout the State against the slaveholder. The member from the 8d Congressional District has, in one of his political harangues, speaking of *slave holders* and *negro equality*, said, "equality between the negro and them" it would inault my house-servants to say they were not *their equals*."

Who does not remember the language used against the slaveowners of Maryland by the speakers at the meeting held last fall at Elkton, in Cecil county. Who does not remember the horror and pity which high-minded men felt, that even in the midst of a *political contest*, speakers could be found who could so far forget the common *charities* of their nature as to glory over and rejoice at the *sufferings* of their fellow men?

Mr. SANDS interposed. I ask if the gentleman is quite in order.

Mr. CLARKE. I am arguing the impropriety of inserting the 23d article in the Bill of Rights.

Mr. SANDS. I make the point that it is travelling out of the way to state what occurred at a political meeting at Elkton. That is hardly within the record. I think it is not at all germane to the question; I raise the point of order because these things shall not go upon the record of this Constitutional Convention without my protest. I object to introducing that branch of the

gentleman's remarks, and placing it upon the record.

Mr. STIRLING. I am anxious to hear it.

The PRESIDENT. The difficulty in which the Chair is placed, is, that if the gentleman objects to any particular remarks made by the speaker, they must be reduced to writing, and submitted to the House. Of course it is impossible to reduce to writing what the gentleman proposes to say; and it is therefore impossible for the Chair to decide whether it will be out of order or in order.

Mr. SANDS. My objection is to what has already been said.

Mr. HEBB. That is already on the record.

Mr. SANDS. Well, I will withdraw my point of order, as gentlemen wish to hear it. I have discharged my duty by protesting against it.

Mr. CLARKE. I shall make no personal allusions, nor introduce anything which is not already published to the world.

Again, the slaveowners have been painted as "*hopeless, wretched, miserable*; praying to a God that once smiled on them, and now *frowns*; they say, give us emancipation, with compensation by the Government." Mr. President, I allude to these facts for the purpose, not of replying in the strain which my *exemplary* predecessors on this floor would teach me, but to give them a historical existence, and to leave them, preserving my own dignity, by passing over them in silence.

I deny, sir, that the slaveowner of Maryland is either "*hopeless, wretched or miserable*." I deny that he *prays* or begs for compensation from any Government or any man. He has the manliness to claim and demands his rights. He will never stoop to be a suppliant to any power save the divine.

Sir, proceed with your *work* of striking down suddenly and by one dire constitutional clause the dearest rights of property, and all you do is but to deprive the citizen of the representative of *money*, or to make him a little *poorer*. You wrong the widow, the orphan, and the destitute, and from opulence, possibly send them out upon the "*cold charity* of the world." But, sir, the *men* you *leave still*, unless you will not be satiated until you have their lives. Their political power as slaveholders may be *gone*, but their political power as *men* exists still. We step out to fight the political battles of the country upon a common platform with you. It will be ours to hurl and wield the *thunderbolts* of political power, no longer