

would ever have been so extensively diffused but in the interest of slavery. It must have empire, and sought it through every channel, and, in my judgment, it has found it! The empire of the tomb.

I moreover am in favor of a reunion because the whole country is mine and yours. It is my heritage and yours; and it shall be bequeathed as inviolate and unbroken to our posterity as it was received by us from our fathers. But the demon that eats at her vitals *must die!*

See what she was and what she is! She was the admiration of the world! Her left hand grasping the rising and her right the setting sun. The blasts of winter fanned her temples in the north; and orange groves and ever-greens adorned her foot-stool in the south; the ample folds of her banner like the wing of a protecting angel, floated over every sea; and the nations of the earth in one voice exclaimed to the young mistress of the west:

"Macte novum virtute; sic iter ad astra."

Such was our country, mine and yours, from the icebergs of the northern coast to the burning sands of the Gulf.

Now what is she? Her maimed and bleeding heroes meet us on every highway. Her standard is torn and trampled in the dust. Her sacred temple of liberty is profaned by the breath of treason unrebuked. The ruthless foot of the "Nephew of his Uncle" treads the soil of our south-western border; and we, poor, sore-stricken sons of our fathers, dare not smite the intruder to the earth.

What has brought us to this, fellow-countrymen? Fellow-heirs of this heritage, what shall we do to redeem it? Our answer is the answer of every patriot heart—**SLAVERY MUST DIE!**

Mr. BRAY, of Prince George's. Mr. President, I approach the discussion of this question with great diffidence, more so perhaps than I have ever felt in entering upon the discussion of any question presented to my mind for consideration; and this is not so much on account of the vast pecuniary interest of my section of the State in the particular institution, which will be affected by the passage of this measure, as the great change which will be made in our domestic institutions, the striking down of the whole of the productive industry and source of wealth of the agricultural portion of the State, and the violence and injustice with which it is attempted to be brought about by the majority of this Convention.

The magnitude of the question involved, and the paramount interest as affecting the future welfare of the State, must inspire the members of this body with an interest that will not be felt in the consideration of any other question which will claim our attention here.

The people of my portion of the State have ever since the formation of your State government, and even before, been so intimately connected with this institution; (for the existence of which they are not at all responsible,) and are now so largely interested in its maintenance that it is with great difficulty I can approach the discussion of the question, either upon the grounds of morality or State policy; when I consider the proposition as reported by the committee, and the unjust, violent, and inconsiderate course pursued by the majority of the Convention on this subject, without a feeling of indignation and disgust which I do not desire to exhibit in this body.

We look upon this effort to abolish slavery as an outrage upon our rights, such as never before has been perpetrated upon any people; not demanded by either the advances in civilization, morally or the present condition of the country, but the promptings of a fanaticism which had its origin in the North; and which has been so diffused among the people of this State as to upset their reason and render them incapable of a just appreciation of the blessings of republican institutions.

It is a question which, if discussed fully, must necessarily involve the consideration of all of those fundamental principles which underlie republican institutions, to the maintenance of which the citizen is most vitally interested, and without which no government can expect that free, full, and hearty support which all good and patriotic citizens desire to render to their government.

Not only do you propose to destroy a domestic institution, but to take from us forty millions of dollars worth of property without being able to assign one sound reason founded in fact why this gross outrage should be perpetrated upon the slaveholders of Maryland.

It will not be denied, I suppose, by gentlemen on the other side, that this is entirely a domestic institution. Mr. Lincoln so regarded it in his inaugural address, and several of his messages afterwards sent to Congress; and he further declares that the Congress of the United States had no power to interfere with slavery in the States. His consistency in this respect you can fully appreciate when you consider his course toward this institution in the border States, and the reasons now assigned for a continuation of the war. It is not only upon his authority that I claim it to be a domestic institution; but upon the authority of all the treaties upon the subject, and of the statements of the past, and never until this unfortunate condition of things did Congress attempt to legislate upon the subject except for its preservation and protection.

In the formation of societies, the citizen was required to yield to the government cer-