

party. Well, sir, that itself covers a multitude of sins. [Renewed laughter.]

Mr. CHAMBERS. I hope the gentleman has changed his opinion of my character.

Mr. BARRON. Certainly. I want it distinctly understood that I do not intend to offer an insult to any gentleman present; I want that distinctly understood. Because there were only two things I liked General Jackson for; one was that he never attacked any one, always stood on the defensive; and the other was that he swore by the eternal that this Union should be preserved. [Applause, promptly checked by the President.]

I want now to attend to my friend from Somerset (Mr. Jones) over the way.

A MEMBER. He is not now in his seat.

Mr. BARRON. Well, I am not going to say anything to hurt him; you need not be alarmed about that. I am opposed to all these little personalities. The gentleman from Somerset said he was a whig—and a great big response came up from my heart—“So was I,” and then there was a sad story came up in my mind. What do you think it was? I looked at my friend from Kent, (Mr. Chambers,) and I looked at my friend from Somerset, (Mr. Jones,) and then I thought of what was said of one whose name I will not mention. “The leg you lost at Saratoga, if no one else will do it, I will take it up, and carry it away and bury it with all honor. But the body that would have given up West Point to our enemies, it may hang as high as Haman.” That is the view I take of that matter.

Now, before I go any further, let me say that speech-making is an up-hill business with me; I did not start at it early enough in life. And if this rebellion had not broke out, I should not be here to-day. But the country called and I obeyed. [Laughter.] As it is, I suppose I am here just about the same as any other member is. And I want to give you these few remarks for what they are worth. And before I forget it, I may as well say that I shall most likely commit the Alpha and Omega of all offences, within these hal- lowed walls, all stained with slavery. I shall most likely quote from the Helper book before I get through. [Laughter.]

I assure you, Mr. President and gentlemen, that it is with feelings of diffidence and reluctance, with the kindest consideration for all in political opposition to me that I undertake to express my humble views upon the article of the bill of rights now under consideration. The question of ridding Maryland from slavery, and converting her into a field for free labor, has been forced upon us by the war which the especial admirers of slavery themselves inaugurated in this country.

And I want to say one word right here as I go along. I have some authorities here, which my friend on my left (Mr. Thomas) has

been kind enough to get ready for me. I do not know that I shall use them, but I thank him for his kindness. The other side have really been kind to each other in this way; and it shows a good disposition on their part to be true to one another. But it has not been so upon our side of the house. Our friends seem generally to act upon the principle of big I and little u.

Slave labor was never stronger and more secure in its whole history, than when Mr. Lincoln was elected President. Its advocates had the control of the Senate and House of Representatives.

I want to say another thing right here. I do not offer these remarks because I think I am an orator, but I just do it so as to go on the record. Do you understand? These things are to be handed down to our little ones, so that they may know whether we are right or wrong. And for that reason I have taken a great deal of pains, I assure you, to get these remarks into some kind of shape.

During the session immediately preceding the coming into power of this administration, they found the majority of the republican members disposed to do everything to relieve them of all anxiety about the safety and security of their institution. The latter were even found passing Territorial bills that session, without any proviso against slavery, in their anxiety to avoid the present sectional warfare. But, having divided and destroyed the democratic party, because all its component parts would not bind themselves to the introduction and preservation of slavery in all the Territories of the United States thereafter to be created and organized, the leaders of the Southern democracy determined to separate the slaveholding States from the balance of the Union. I do not know as these ideas suit my friends; the words are hardly long enough—and thus to subvert and overthrow the best and freest government upon earth. It was these democratic divisions and quarrels which brought the present administration into power, and hence, if anything has since transpired repugnant to the feelings and destructive to the interests of any portion of the people outside of the States in rebellion, let the responsibility be fixed upon the heads of those to whom it properly belongs. Perhaps, if my poor head and feeble hands had had the control of events during the last four years, the bitter cup that is now pressed to the lips of so many of my fellow men of Maryland, might have been passed from them. Nevertheless, I cannot say that I much regret what they term the manifold evils connected with this war, for the reason that they were all foretold, and warnings to avoid them loudly sounded into their ears, by the strongest and wisest men of both North and South. This calamitous, bloody and destructive war, is nothing but the offspring of slavery. It has