

master's kindly acceptance and treatment of him.

It is further evident that Paul did not send him back as a slave, but as a *Christian* brother, to be treated as he would expect to be treated himself, when he visited Philemon—"Receive him," says Paul, the aged, the spiritual father of both Philemon and Onesimus, "*not now as a servant, but above a servant; a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh and in the Lord. If thou count me therefore as a partner, receive him as myself.*" He says he has some right to make the request, for Philemon was under strong obligations to him. I might say unto thee, "thou owest unto me even thine own self besides."

Thus, Mr. President, we see that the boasted biblical argument for slavery and for the rendition of fugitives when examined melts away; and the most which can be positively proved from it, is that if fugitives wish to return to their masters, we may aid them, and it is the duty of Christian masters to receive them kindly.

I propose, Mr. President, in the few minutes left me, to take up some of the points advanced by my friends from Prince George's generally, minus one; because I believe they have all but one spoken upon this question. One of my friends (Mr. Clarke) was opposed to emancipation, and opposed to State compensation. He and I agree upon that last point, for I am opposed to State compensation. He is in favor of government compensation according to the valuation of 1862.

Mr. CLARKE. According to the census of 1860.

Mr. BERRY, of Baltimore county. I shall be thankful to the government for the smallest favors. But I tell the gentleman here now, that he and my friend and namesake (Mr. Berry, of Prince George's)—for I presume I was named after him—may knock at the treasury door for more than the ninety years which he expects and hopes to live, and he may then leave his claim as a legacy to his children to knock a thousand years more, and quadruple that. He will ask in vain, for the record of Debates, page 82, will show whether he is worthy to receive compensation for his slaves. This resolution was offered.

*Resolved*, That this Convention tenders the thanks of the State to the soldiers of Maryland in the army of General Grant, for the gallant manner in which they have behaved during the recent battles, and that this Convention expresses its deep sympathy with the families of the slain, and for the wounded in their sufferings.

*Against* which all the members present from Prince George's voted.

Christianity, religion, oh! where is thy blush? Gentlemen refused to vote for a resolution of that kind, when in order to gain their seats here they swear that they will

best of their skill and judgment, diligently and faithfully, without partiality or prejudice, discharge the duties of members of the Convention to frame a new constitution and form of government; that they will support the Constitution of the United States, and will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland and the Government of the United States, any law or ordinance of any State to the contrary notwithstanding; that they have never either directly or indirectly, by word, act or deed, given any aid, comfort or encouragement to those in rebellion against the Government of the United States.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. Does the gentleman refer to me?

Mr. BERRY, of Baltimore county. I refer to the refusal on the part of gentlemen to vote for that resolution; and I say that after ninety years knocking we will hold it up against you, and as you look you will see written on the walls, *Manna, Manna, Takel, Uphassin*. You will not get a dollar.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I was not present when that vote was taken.

Mr. BERRY, of Baltimore county. Then it does not apply to you. I refer to gentlemen who voted.

Mr. CLARKE. I should not have interrupted the gentleman from Baltimore county but for his reading the oath which we had taken, and his intimation that this vote was a violation of that oath. I state this personally here, that I have the highest regard for the obligation of an oath, and property or threats or anything else will never force me to violate what I regard as the obligation of that oath. I quietly desired the Convention to excuse me from voting; not at all because I regarded a vote in the negative as a violation of that oath, but to prevent gentlemen from using it just as the gentleman from Baltimore county has now attempted to do. And, sir, in a proper case, if any other resolutions of this sort are offered, I shall refuse to vote, whether this house attempts to make me or not. They can expel me if they choose because I refuse to vote in a proper case. But I will do myself the justice to read the remarks I made on that occasion in explanation of my vote.

[Mr. CLARKE read from the Journal of Debates, page 82.]

I go further now and say that the "American" did not deny the charge, and I have seen no denial of it to this day. I should not have interrupted the gentleman if he had not read the oath I took there in the executive chamber, and which, so help me God, I will stand by and maintain so long as any man will, which I considered a personal reflection upon me.

The President. The Chair did not so regard it, or he would have called the gentleman from Baltimore county to order.

Mr. CLARKE. I think it is due now that I should state what the President would not