

permit me to say at that time in response to the gentleman's question, that the "American" stated that the soldiers themselves, when they arrived, were very much surprised to find their good names attempted to be taken from them by this anonymous correspondent. But there was no denial by the editor, or by the persons themselves. I did not suppose, upon a question of this sort, where the question of the bravery of the Maryland troops was involved, it was necessary to vote against the opinion of an officer, stated by this paper to be an officer of Major General Sedgwick's staff, in the absence of any other information, in order to obtain compensation for our slaves. I hope such a consideration will have no effect upon me, one way or the other, in the discharge of my public duties.

Mr. HARWOOD. I do not mean to let the gentleman from Baltimore county construe my oath for me. I shall take the responsibility of them. As to obtaining compensation, I would not vote for that resolution or for one like it for any money.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. Will the gentleman from Baltimore county allow me one word?

Mr. BERRY, of Baltimore county. My time is out now.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. Then I will move to extend it. I want to say, as one referred to, that I was not here on the occasion of that vote. I am one who never shrinks from any responsibility placed upon me; and I will say to the gentleman that had I been here I should have refused to vote for that resolution; and the house might have taken what action they pleased. I would have done it on these grounds—that we were sent here to frame an organic law, and I do not think it came within the purview of our duties here to vote on such resolutions. I respect, and shall maintain always, and no man shall go beyond me in carrying out the oath which I assumed when I took my seat here, because I hold it sacred. I shall always abide by it.

The motion to extend the time, without limit, was agreed to.

Mr. BERRY, of Baltimore county, resumed: Gentlemen feel that they are meant, and they may construe it as applicable to their individual cases, and feel the point. If they will enter their disclaimers ninety years hence, as they have done now, on this particular question, it will be for the people who have charge of the treasury then to decide it. I do not mean to impugn improperly the motives of gentlemen. At any rate it has given them a further chance to explain their votes.

The gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) says that the Union party will not be satisfied until we have their life's blood.

(Mr. CLARKE shook his head.)

Mr. BERRY proceeded: I have got it down so. I am one of those who differ somewhat from some on my own side, on the question

which may grow out of this remark. I say this: that if the South, or the so-called Southern Confederacy, will lay down their arms and return to their allegiance, I will receive them with open arms. I will grapple them as with hooks of steel, and draw them to me. This doctrine about keeping up this war until every vestige of slavery is driven out, finds no lodgment in my heart. If they will return and come back as they originally were, I will receive them with open arms, and hail the day of their coming.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. On the former guaranty?

Mr. BERRY, of Baltimore county. Under the guaranties of the Constitution. On that I stand. Whether it be changed or broken on the part of the South or not, I stand on the Constitution.

I have another thing to say in regard to this question of slavery. The car of empire is rolling on. If slavery comes beneath it, slavery will be crushed by its ponderous weight. If the Southern Confederacy puts slavery in front to retard the advancement of this car of empire, which, since 1861, has commenced to roll on, slavery must either get out of the way or go under. The platform of the Union party, which was adopted a few days ago in Baltimore city, does not say what has been said upon this floor. It says:

"Resolved, That we approve of the determination of the government of the United States not to compromise with rebels or to offer any terms of peace, except such as may be based upon an unconditional surrender of their hostility and a return to their just allegiance to the Constitution and laws of the United States, and that we call upon the government to maintain this position, and to prosecute the war with the utmost possible rigor to the complete suppression of the rebellion, in the full reliance upon the self-sacrificing patriotism and heroic valor and the undying devotion of the American people to their country and its free institutions."

When they return to their true allegiance, I am ready to receive them. Then when we shall have obtained a sufficient majority in the Congress of the United States to alter and amend the Constitution, and blot out slavery throughout the length and breadth of the land, when that majority shall so determine, I will say, So mote it be. That is the way I want it done. I do not wish it to be done by might, unless it stands in the way of right. I want it done according to the instrument which I hold is the paramount law of the land.

There is another matter which I cannot let go by. The gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Cushing) in his speech a few days ago, said: When the slave Burns was arrested in Massachusetts, guarded as he was by some 1,500 soldiers, were returning him where in