

Mr. Giddings, the leading power of abolitionism in the North, has again and again, on the floor of Congress, reiterated the assertion that he never had attempted and never would attempt to interfere with the existence of slavery in the States, which was a matter to be regulated entirely by themselves. But they have aroused the spirit of the North and of the loyal South, and they have inflicted a death-blow upon their own institution. It has fallen, if it has fallen at all, in the household of its own friends, Actæon eaten up by his own dogs; and they cannot blame any one but themselves.

My friend has also alluded to another chapter in his history, in which I bore an humble part. Before coming to that, however, I may say that the doctrine of States' rights is, that the people of each State have a right to determine their destiny for themselves. But in this matter of secession, this horrid and cruel madness, they have not followed their own doctrine. They have disobeyed it. Will any man tell me that the people of Virginia had any say in the matter of secession? Will any man tell me that the people of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and North Carolina, would to-day be in rebellion, if it had not been for the most infamous tyranny, in which their rights were entirely overlooked; in which the juggernaut car of despotism rolled over the prostrate necks of men who would have died rather than yield to the miserable wrong, the infernal crime of breaking up this government, and tearing their States away from the only security they have ever had? They have not permitted the people to say whether they will or will not adhere to this government. They have, as my friend from Baltimore city (Mr. Cushing,) the other day very justly and pathetically said, strung the railroads of East Tennessee with the dangling bodies of martyrs; men whose blood is the seed of the church, through whose broad aisles shall ever echo the grand cry of American redemption, the battle cry of American freedom. [Applause.]

I come now to speak of the Frederick Legislature of 1861. I have nothing to say about that branch of the Legislature in which my friend was. He was in the House: I was in the Senate. If you will read the history of that Maryland Legislature, it is written upon the record, and it cannot be erased. My friend says that in after time it will be read by a different light. It will be; and the light of truth will ever condemn the men, in the Senate at least, who dared to act as that body did in their attempt to drag Maryland into the chaos of Jefferson Davis's tyranny. We all know, and the people of Maryland know, that Gov. Hicks was again and again besieged to call the Legislature together. I united in that call at last. The President of this Convention united in it; and I believe almost all the Union members united in it; because they

believed the calling of that Legislature together would develop the plans which we knew were maturing in the State, and give the people an opportunity to see the danger that was impending over them. Gov. Hicks never did a better thing in his life, a thing for which the people of the State and the Union ought to thank him more heartily, than when he assembled that Legislature in the city of Frederick.

The first thing that was done there in the Senate—I am only speaking of the Senate—was to place on the record a solemn declaration that we had no constitutional right as a Legislature, to secede. We spoke out on that subject at once, and said that the apprehensions that were entertained that that Legislature would pass any act by which the State could secede, were entirely visionary. Every one knew that the Legislature had no power to control the destiny of the State in this matter. If any power could do it at all, it was a Convention; and "the majority" did not think it was exactly the time for even a Convention to be called. What did they do? Scarcely a week elapsed before they produced a bill the most remarkable in its features that has ever been produced in the halls of American legislation; "a bill for the peace and safety of the people of Maryland." Why, the people of Maryland were at peace with all the world and "the rest of mankind." The safety of the people was involved in the support and sustenance of the Government of the United States. The arm of Gov. Hicks, brave old man, was attempted to be paralyzed, and the power was to be given into the hands of a Committee of Peace and Safety of the State of Maryland. Mr. Mason, the pendulum commissioner, who oscillates between France and England, was there to enlighten our humble minds upon these important subjects, and remained until he was advised by a Committee of Peace and Safety of the loyal people, that he had better leave, which he very unceremoniously did.

What was the object? What was the necessity of striking down the Executive power of the State of Maryland? What had Gov. Hicks done, except to stand up as a mighty wall of fire against the efforts of the secessionists and their sympathizers to carry this brave old State and lay her down prostrate, and torn and humbled and degraded into the lap of that pink and miracle of modesty, Christianity and purity, Jefferson Davis. He had done that, and in doing it he had excited the wrath and the ire of all those people.—Taking up this precious volume, (the Journal of the Frederick Legislature,) and reading it over from beginning to end, you will find that resolutions were passed sympathizing with everybody who was in the least interfered with. Mr. Merryman who was charged with having assisted in burning the bridges on the Northern Central Railroad, was looked