

that slavery is of divine origin. Will the gentlemen be astonished?

A VOICE. "Yes."

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. The first reference I shall make is to the 14th chapter of Genesis, the 14th, 15th and 16th verses. I believe my friend from Cecil (Mr. Scott) is fond of reading the Bible, but I am afraid he has read it to little purpose.

"And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan."

"And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus."

"And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people."

Mr. SCOTT. That shows the propriety of arming slaves. [Laughter.]

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. They were fighting for their households and in support of their institutions, led by their master. Abram possessed servants, which he marshalled against his enemies.

Mr. SCOTT. Just what we are doing now against our enemies. [Renewed laughter.]

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I now refer to the 16th chapter of Genesis.

"Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children, and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar."

"And Sarai said unto Abram: Behold now the Lord hath restrained me from bearing; I pray thee, go in unto my maid, it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai."

Mr. SCOTT. I did not know you claimed Bible authority for that practice. [Great laughter.]

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. The gentleman seems to forget that this is simply a history of that age, and that the men of that age, having fallen from their high estate, possessed all the sinfulness and weakness belonging to our nature; that bad men lived then as now. And we can find in the Old Testament, in the history of the men of that age, a precedent for nearly every vice except vagary, such as is now attempted to be perpetrated by the majority of this Convention upon the slaveholders of Maryland.

"And Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.

"And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

"And Sarai said unto Abram: My wrong be upon thee; I have given my maid into

thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes; the Lord judge between me and thee.

"But Abram said unto Sarai: Behold, thy maid is in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.

"And the angel of the Lord found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.

"And he said: Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai.

"And the angel of the Lord said unto her: Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.

"And the angel of the Lord said unto her: I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude."

Mr. SCOTT. If the gentleman from Prince George's will permit me—

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. Not now. I am astonished, Mr. President, that whilst the Holy Scriptures are being read there should be so much levity. I am astonished that gentlemen should not have more respect for themselves; for you as the presiding officer of this body; for the Bible and its holy teachings, than to make anything read from it a subject of merriment. Do they not hear the Bible read at least once a week in their churches?

I next refer to the 17th chapter of Genesis, 12th verse:

"And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house or bought with money of any stranger which is not of the seed."

This reference shows that under the Mosaic dispensation slaves were bought with money; they were commodities of sale; they were sold in market, and were bought in that day—and slavery was recognized as right by the teachings of that day.

The 10th Commandment, recognized and held sacred by all Christians, certainly recognizes slavery. I shall not read it, as I suppose the gentlemen very well recollect the commandments, though they have forgotten many other teachings and precepts of the Bible.

I now refer to the 21st chapter of Exodus: "Now these are the judgments which thou shalt set before them.

"If thou buy a Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve, and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing.

"If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him.

"If his master have given him a wife, and she have borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself.