

uttered by Mr. Dennison upon the ballot-box, as the instrument of God, and which remarks were very well received.

In Illinois, slavery exists in opposition to the law of '89. The law as it stands is powerful enough, but the will to obey the law is wanting. The opponents of abolition acknowledge that slavery is wrong—but say they, it has legal right and must be endured, notwithstanding that it is opposed to morality. Slavery existed before law; slavery was the curse of the ignorance of the law, and now should any politician dare to propose slavery lawful, he would be blasted forever by the unanimous voice of the people.—[Cheers.] Even Henry Clay, the great, the chosen one of a majority of the people, [confusion] let him declare that he would extend the influence of slavery, and then see the irresistible wave which now bears him on to the capitol—[hisses and cheers] see how it would as irresistibly roll back and leave him shipwrecked and in the *Clay*. [Cheers and hisses.] The Legislature is the creature of slavery—slavery is the creature of all the pro-slavery power and the use of it.

Mr. Dennison now gained the platform, somewhat calmed by the remarks of Mr. Burleigh. He regretted that the President had branded him as an apostate, but he replied in the words of Scripture, "By their fruits you shall know them." Had he been President, he would not have branded any member of the Abolition Society as a hypocrite or an apostate. He acknowledged that while he adopted the slavery notions of William Lloyd Garrison, he did not adopt his wild, visionary theological opinions. He had suffered contumely and violence in the cause of abolition, and before this meeting he cast back the charge of apostacy upon him who made it. (Continued uproar, applause, and hisses, mingled.)

Garrison, rising hastily, said, "Once there was a Benedict Arnold." (Hisses, louder than before, and great excitement.) Garrison—"You are cowards!" (Another storm of hisses.) "Yes, I call you dastards!" (Continued confusion.) A voice—"Judge not." Garrison, in a tremendous passion—"I say that whoever spoke then is a coward and a dastard!" (Of the scene at this moment, it is impossible to give any description.) Garrison, continuing—"I say there was once Benedict Arnold. (Hisses.) (Mr. Dennison jumping on the seat, shouted out at the top of his voice, "I think you are the Benedict Arnold.") A voice from the lower end of the room, "This meeting is not to be broken up by clergymen and a gagger." Another voice, "You're impudent." The uproar and excitement was tremendous—some were hissing, some were clapping their hands, some cheering, and several ladies, and male members were shouting at the top of their voices to hear the President, who finally was heard. He again charged Dennison with betraying the abolition cause, and forming another society—with taking possession of the books, stereotype plates, money, newspaper, and in short the entire property of the society. Dennison denied the truth of the charge, and after some time

Abby Kelly gained the attention of the meeting. She reiterated the charges made by the President against Dennison, and in nearly the same objectionable terms, but she was heard to the end without any other expression, but that of approbation. She reviewed the career of Garrison and Dennison at very great length.—Had it not been for the robbery, she said, by the latter of over \$12,000 of the funds of the present society, slavery would now be abolished.

A lady proposed that instead of attacking Mr. Dennison the meeting should welcome him back to their ranks. Abby Kelly did not relish this proposal, but as several voices were calling out for "a song," she was obliged to give way.—Several of the vocal members sang "Come join the abolition cause."

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XII. Newspapers

A. Maryland Colonization Journal

2. June 1841 (n.s. I, 1)—May 1861 (n.s. X, 24)

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