

WHO ARE THEIR FRIENDS?

That portion of Maryland which lies between the Chesapeake and the Potomac southward of a line drawn due east from Washington City, is divided into the Counties of Prince George's, Charles, and St. Mary's, which are predominantly Roman Catholic in faith and were of old Federal and afterward Whig in politics, but, since Slavery became the base of our current politics, have been accounted "Democratic." These counties are responsible for sending to Congress Mr. Ben. G. Harris—the gentleman so nearly expelled from the House on motion of Speaker Colfax. They have been in ardent and active sympathy with the Rebellion from the outset, sending their young men in crowds to swell the Rebel ranks, and keeping up a large business of blockade-running and mail-running across the Potomac between Baltimore and Richmond. The plot to assassinate President Lincoln and other chiefs of our Government had here many of its ramifications; Booth had roamed over it day after day while preparing to commit his meditated crime with the least possible risk; hither he fled, with his more immediate accomplice, for shelter and succor the moment his crime was complete; and here he was hidden and nursed until he was able to make his way across the river into Virginia. And nowhere within the preponderantly loyal States was there another region half so well fitted for his purpose or so well affected toward his horrible enterprise.

The World has a Washington account of the assassins' conspiracy and its consummation, which incidentally and truthfully says:

"Surrattsville, only ten miles from Washington, has been throughout the war a seat of conspiracy. It was like a suburb of Richmond, reaching quite up to the rival capital; and, though the few Unionists on the peninsula knew its reputation well enough, nothing of the sort came out until the murder. * * * It could not but have struck Booth that this isolated part of Maryland, ignorant and Rebel to the brim, without telegraph or railways, or direct stage-routes, belted with swamps and broken by dense timber, afforded extraordinary opportunities for shelter and escape," &c., &c.

—Now let us see how "this isolated part of Maryland, ignorant and Rebel to the brim," has a habit of voting:

| | Free Constitution, '64. | | Pres't. '64. | | Pres't. '60. | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| | For. | Against. | Lin. coln. | McClell. Lin. | Lin. coln. | All others |
| Charles..... | 13 | 978 | 27 | 961 | 6 | 1191 |
| Prince George's.. | 149 | 1293 | 197 | 1550 | 1 | 1976 |
| St. Mary's..... | 99 | 1078 | 99 | 986 | 1 | 1371 |
| Total..... | 261 | 3,349 | 323 | 3,497 | 8 | 4,538 |
| Pro-Slavery maj. | 3,088 | | 3,174 | | 4,530 | |

—Now, then, while it is very certain that many true and loyal citizens voted for Slavery and McClellan, it is just as certain and just as notorious that every sympathizer with slaveholding treason, every one "ignorant and Rebel to the brim," voted as did these disloyal Marylanders. What sort of an Administration to carry on a war against the Rebellion could we have had, with such men as these Western Shore Marylanders for its creators and supporters, and such Representatives as Ben. G. Harris to sustain it in Congress?

These questions *The World* was wont to meet with a logic composed in about equal parts of denunciation of the querist and screechy protestations of its own and its candidate's loyalty. Was it possible to give any more pertinent answer?