I could bear. It seemed to me that I ought to resent it as a tyrannical interference with the rights of private opinion. So that in judging my case it will be necessary to keep in mind the gross insults contained in the charge brought against me by the "standard." What I had said here about voting for tremendous amounts to almost nothing, as no one expected that an attempt to form an else vote ticket would be made. In fact I knew an influential citizen say he would vote for someone himself if he thought the electing him would bring about a dissolution of the Union, whilst I would vote for him to make the Union stronger.

But the state of the case which comes home to me more directly than any other is the influence my course will have upon the prosperity of the university. My own opinion is that if the newspapers will let the matter rest it will soon be forgotten. The election will soon be over, one of the candidates will probably be elected, and the others will soon cease to be talked of. What I said of slavery is neither function incidental nor inflammatory, I have never held abolition views. If my reasons for keeping the increase of the slave population at home are good, of course we are not blame and for setting them forth. If my reasons are unsound I have erred on a question upon which there always has been, and probably always will be, an honest difference of opinion among thinking men. It is only a short time since I saw an article in a Virginia paper.