

have been violated, by colour of law. "When public liberty is manifestly endangered?" As it is notoriously felt by all, so it needs no argument to prove, that public liberty has never been endangered, or even threatened here, save by the rash or misguided men, and their abettors, whose conduct is now under review. But, were it otherwise, and had these events occurred, can it be said, with the least semblance of truth, "that all other means of redress" have been tried and found "ineffectual?" No other Constitution or Form of Government has provided more amply for its amendment, or a mode more ready, easy, safe and judicious for that purpose than ours; nor has there ever occurred, since its adoption, a time when the assumption or assertion that there is no hope of reform under it, was so evidently untrue, as at the present.

In the lapse of sixty years, the position of society has materially varied, so that the provisions of the Constitution are less perfect in theory, and less adapted to ideas of right, and to the present condition, wishes and interests of the people, than at the time of its establishment. There are several parts of the instrument which it is generally believed might be beneficially changed. The establishment of a different basis and apportionment of representation is required by a just regard to the rights, interests and wishes of the people of the more populous sections of the State, and there is every reason to believe that such a change, in this respect, as ought to satisfy the large and populous sections, and can be safely conceded by the smaller and less populous, can and will be obtained, in the Constitutional manner, and with general consent. The comparative inequality of the representation of different sections of the State, with reference to population, taxation and business, has been pressed upon the attention of the people and the Legislature for several years past, and, as evidence of the impression which had been made in favor of conceding to the more populous sections, an increase of representation and political power, or, in other words, of the advance of the principal cause of reform, the General Assembly, at the last annual Session, and but just before it has been so boldly, but untruly asserted or assumed, that all hope of obtaining reform in the Constitutional mode,