If my memory serves me, after we had passed through the Revolutionary struggle for independence, and it was found that the articles of Confederation were not of sufficient strength to secure the Government, the first proposal to remodel the Government under which we now live emanated from this place, and this is the Constitution I have been taught to believe sacred in principle, and for the preservation of which I have periled my all. I now rely on the principle upon which I have always relied, namely: first be convinced that you are right, and thoroughly understand the principle, and then you can rely on it that in pursuit of a correct principle you can never reach a wrong conclusion. Satisfied that the principles of the Constitution would preserve the Union, I never hesitated or debated the question; and when we reflect on the patriotism of those who formed that sacred instrument, and when we know that Washington, the Father of his Country, who, in the language of his eulogist, was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," was the President of the Convention which formed the Constitution which we are sworn to support, we cannot but feel for it additional veneration. You, gentlemen, of the Convention, now in session at Annapolis, are engaged in a work similar to that which occupied the attention of our forefathers—the task of amending the Constitution. Theirs' was undertaken at a time when this nation was comparatively a handful of people, and our boundaries comprised within narrow limits. Our resources were but a miniature of what they now are. That wise man asserted that government was instituted for the convenience of man, and to be accommodated to every emergency, this was to be secured by a Constitution founded on the great principle of civil and religious liberty, not to be overrun or borne down by the majority in a storm of fury and passion.

When the requirements and securities of the Constitution are set at naught by a tyrannical majority, and their will made law, liberty is gone and despotism takes its place.

Amendments to the Constitution are to be made in the mode designated by the instrument itself. Washington, having assisted in making that Constitution, says in his farewell address, that the people should submit to the Constitution as it is, and if there is any objection, its amendments should be made in the mode which the instrument itself provides. Now, if this safeguard is not respected, where is free government? None of it is left. In politics, as in religion, when my facts give out and reason fails, my conviction is strong that truth is mighty and will ultimately triumph. Though I may go down and perish, my proud consolation at the last moment will be that I have done my duty, and this for me will be a sufficient reward. In support of the Constitution