

one harmonious whole, a mighty nation. He who seeks to condemn it or question its existence, strikes a blow at all that is dear on earth to man.

The days in which the right of the few to control the many was blindly acknowledged, have happily gone by. The principle recognized in the bill of rights of Maryland, "that all government originates from the people is founded in compact only and instituted solely for the good of the whole," is the same which was boldly avowed by the patriots of the revolution in the Declaration of Independence, when was inscribed in letters of light upon the banner of a nation's rights, the strong and wholesome truth, that to secure their rights, "governments were instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." Those who willingly "grope their dull way by the dim twinkling gleams of ages gone" cannot check the onward march of republican feeling. Experience teaches us, he who would claim political rights for the favored few, incompatible with those of the many, can have no very enviable reputation among the friends of liberty, nor destined to be remembered with gratitude by his countrymen for the character of his doctrines.

The committee are of the opinion, "if the bill for Caroline, in its spirit and detail, challenges, as we admit it does, the approbation of the Legislature *because desired by that county*," it ought to be passed; and so, for the very same reason, if the bill be *desired* by Frederick county, as we are assured it is by the immediate representatives of the people of that county, its provisions should be extended to that county. If the desire of the people of Caroline county be a sufficient reason for the passage of the bill relating to the municipal policy of Caroline county, as we cheerfully confess it to be, it is not easily perceived why the desire of the people of Frederick county should not be *equally* sufficient so far as that county is concerned. Frederick county, "claiming only a common equality with her sister counties, she cannot reasonably be expected to submit to less than common justice;" if she did, your committee think it would be difficult to "forbear the expression of surprise at the awkward position" she would assume.

The local law of a county is generally conceded to be a matter with which the people of the county have of right, the most to do; and if it infringe not upon some principle of justice, should be as they desire it. Their wishes are properly made known by those whom they delegate to guard and vindicate their interests, and their declarations should be entitled to implicit faith, if not contradicted by the petitions of the people themselves.

The committee, though thoroughly persuaded of the propriety and justice of the demand of the people of Frederick to regulate "the municipal policy" of that county, yet reluctantly confess unless the amendments to the bill, the effect of one of which is to deprive Frederick of "an equality of rights," be assented to under