

taken into consideration with the great benefit that was to accrue? They had been told how hundreds of voters were taken from Baltimore city into Baltimore county to control the elections. They had used these frauds in Baltimore to press down the right and uphold the wrong, and it was to prevent this that a registry law was needed.

There was another thing which must be considered—a trouble which reared its protean head at every side. Negro suffrage was, it was said, to be conferred by act of Congress, and to extend over all the States. If it was to be enforced at the point of the bayonet, it could not be resisted; but if it was to be done under the semblance of law, it could be resisted by this registry law, which would throw its protecting aegis around our ballot box, and he would then say resist this nefarious scheme with all the strength of laws.

Mr. Kennedy rose to express his hearty concurrence in the views of the gentlemen from Kent, (Mr. Wickes,) and from Baltimore, (Mr. Gill.) He regarded this system as most essential, and could not see that any injury could possibly result to any country from it. As a safeguard to the ballot-box, it was necessary—necessary to prevent the exercise of the franchise by those who were not entitled to it. He was convinced that a general registration system would conduce greatly to the interest of the State. We are liable upon the whole of the Pennsylvania line to influences which would be most dangerous to the more southern and peninsular counties. He had regretted to see the sectional feeling which had been exhibited—had deeply regretted the disposition to interfere with the reports of the committees—thought that they should be left as nearly as possible as at first reported, and was satisfied that in nearly every instance where they had been altered it had caused great injury. If there had been a system of registration in 1864, would the present constitution have been fastened upon us, a constitution which it required the greatest fraud to declare adopted, and then only by 300 majority.

When in the public service as a member of the Congress of the United States, it had become his duty to investigate charges of bribes and corruption, and he had ascertained that one officer of the government had been