

tory and connection with the patriots of the revolution—to be invited here and welcomed by the presiding officer of this Convention, and by the chief magistrate of such a State, and by the chairman of the committee, irrespective of party, I assure you, but not in an egotistical view, is peculiarly gratifying to me. [Applause.] The history of Maryland and Annapolis is more familiar to you than it is to me, and it is not necessary for me on this occasion to indulge in a recitation of those historical facts that will last as long as history itself.

But, if my memory serves me correctly, after we had passed through the revolutionary struggle, after it had been demonstrated that the articles of confederation were not of sufficient perfection and strength to secure the government, the suggestion emanated from this chamber to remodel the constitution under which we now live. [Applause.] And that is the constitution that I was taught to revere from my earliest infancy, and believe in its great principles as the germ of the rights of man. For the principles of the constitution I have perilled my all—for the great principles therein contained I have staked everything. Relying ever upon one rule of action—and that is to first be convinced that you are right, that you understand principle, and that in the pursuit of a correct principle we never can reach a wrong conclusion—satisfying my judgment and my conscience that the principles of the government were involved, and that it was right to pursue them, I have never hesitated nor debated as to what course to pursue. [Great applause.]

Who was it participated in the formation of this constitution? Washington, the Father of his Country, who, in the language of his eulogist, was “first in peace, first in war, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.” He it was who was a delegate to and president of the convention that framed the Constitution that I was sworn to support, and which I will support. [Great cheering.] And you are now engaged in a similar work upon the principles that Washington laid down in the Constitution of the United States. When that Constitution was framed we were but a handful of people, and our commerce was limited, our resources of every description being but miniature as compared with what they are now. There-