

fore, that wise man, with his compatriots, made a provision in that instrument looking to the period when it might become necessary to make alterations in its provisions. This is in accordance with nature, moral and physical, and the fathers provided the precise mode by which the work of their hands can be adapted to the ever-changing and advancing conditions of man.

But the Constitution and the great principles of civil and religious liberty are not to be overturned and borne down by a majority, in the midst of fury and of passion. This was not their design, for when the will of a tyrannical majority is made law—is made the constitution of the country—let me tell you, sir, that amid such circumstances liberty is gone and you have a despotism. [Prolonged applause.] The Constitution must be sustained. The Constitution of our fathers must be held to and not given up, and must not be changed, except in the mode and manner pointed out by the instrument itself. Washington, in his farewell address, after having made that Constitution, and providing the mode and manner of its alteration, says: "Submit to the law and the Constitution as it is, until it is changed and modified in the mode and manner pointed out in the instrument." And if this is not observed, where is free government? There is none of it left. How are you proceeding? You are proceeding in conformity with the first principles of free government, to alter your Constitution in the mode and manner pointed out. When we abandon this we at once give up the idea and the great principle of man's capacity for self-government, and surrender our government into the hands of an arbitrary, despotic majority. Majorities can always take care of themselves. The popular will should be obeyed and should be paramount, but it should be reverently done, according to the law and the Constitution. [Great applause.] That is constitutional liberty. That is constitutional freedom, and for these great principles which lie at the foundation of government, so far as I am concerned, without regard to the future or to consequences, I will still exert myself. [Applause.] My faith is strong, and in my statesmanship, if I should be allowed the term in connection with myself, I am a good deal like I am in my religion. When my facts give out, when my reason fails