

*solto voce*, and apparently without any specific meaning—still it had its object. The design of the gentleman doubtless was *gently to insinuate* to the public that, there were gentlemen here ready to “bid high” for popularity.

Now an imputation of this sort, Mr. President, [said Mr. B.] made by another with reference to the gentleman from Kent himself, would have been, as we all know, repelled with quite sufficient point. He must, therefore, not be surprised if others are not disposed quietly to submit to such intimations when applied to them. Does not the gentleman from Kent perceive, said Mr. B., that his intimation of “high bids” is quite broad enough to involve his friend from Anne Arundel, [Mr. Dorsey,] who here advocates the liberal doctrine—and yet it is surely to be presumed, that a gentleman of the advanced age of the honorable gentleman from Anne Arundel, would not turn upon his heel for any office in the State.

If my friend from Kent, really designed an imputation invidious, in the remark which he made, I can only say, coming from him, it is in very bad taste. For myself, said Mr. B., the mover of this amendment, I claim to stand as far removed from any unworthy influences here, as the honorable gentleman from Kent possibly can. I ask nothing—I desire nothing—but the consciousness of having endeavored faithfully to discharge my duty here as a representative of the people. My part here is to act upon my best judgment of what is proper to be done, uninfluenced by any one. What effect a particular act or vote may have on my personal popularity, I stop not to enquire and care not to know.

This amendment, said Mr. B. was offered by me mainly for the reasons which have been assigned by the gentleman from Anne Arundel, (Mr. Dorsey,) that is to say to guard, against invidious and odious distinction between native born and naturalized citizens. Such distinctions are in my judgment illiberal, *impolitic* and unjust.

My friend from Queen Anne, [Mr. Grason,] said Mr. B., thinks that there is not the least probability that a man of foreign birth will be elected Governor of Maryland, and that, therefore, the restriction is unimportant. If this be the fact, I cannot conceive why it is that my excellent friend so tenaciously adheres to it. Why not obliterate it at once? If there is no danger there is no need of the restriction.

Mr. President, [said Mr. B.] our present Constitution contains no such objectionable provision, as that which is now proposed. We are going back instead of forward—we are becoming more restrictive instead of becoming more liberal. We came to this Convention avowedly to enlarge the privileges of the people, and now we desire to be engaged in an effort to contract them.

Suppose a naturalized citizen should be elected Governor of the State—where the harm? Where the danger? Have we not confided our dearest interests to them in other days, and where have they shown themselves faithless or ungrateful? I shall vote for the amendment.

Mr. CHAMBERS said with regard to the good or bad taste of his remarks, which had formed the principle subject of the lecture just administered by the gentleman from Baltimore county, [Mr. Buchanan.] he had only to remind that gentleman that it was a subject on which he should not be too dogmatical. One of the most ancient adages we have, has taught us to believe that “taste is not a matter for argument.” He was quite willing to submit to the House the decision of the question of taste. Another attempt of the gentleman was rather amusing. He had gratuitously given to his remarks about “bidding” a personal application to his venerable friend from Anne Arundel, [Mr. Dorsey.] Why, asked Mr. C., can any one suppose that at his time of life, that gentleman is preparing for a race in the field of popularity? We all know it is quite impossible. But to the subject. He had said, and he repeated, our course was downward in this matter. The current was continually setting more and more strongly down hill. Did not the votes on the elective franchise bill show that? The gentleman from Baltimore county, he believed, went in every case for enlarging the privileges of foreigners. Did not the history of the present bill confirm the existence of this tendency? In the quiet of their chamber the committee had matured a system, which they thought reasonable, and he believed, properly so thought. It is introduced here, and the moment the idea is suggested that an alteration may be made, enlarging the privileges of the foreigner, that moment the eloquence of gentlemen is put in requisition to resound the popular note—“no distinction,” “no proscription,” “no exclusion.” It was his decided opinion that sound reasons existed for a distinction in the matter.

Our system of government is a complicated one. Educated as we are in the midst of these institutions and familiar with their operations, we do not appreciate this fact. But it is made evident by the observation of the almost universal errors that prevail on this subject abroad. It is not at all understood by foreigners. Anything approaching to an accurate knowledge of our system is confined to persons connected with affairs of government at home, whose official duties make it necessary to know something of the nature and proceedings of other governments. Of this class none emigrated to this county. Of this class even, we constantly witness instances of the greatest misconception of the practical operation of our complex federative system.

It was not likely then, that under such circumstances foreigners, who came here at mature age, with habits of thought formed and fixed, could without a reasonable period for experience as well as probation, be qualified to administer the office of Chief Magistrate, as well as one who, equal in all other respects, had a perfect acquaintance with all the peculiarities of our condition.

Again, it is one most important item in the duties of a Governor to make selections from the citizens of the State for the various offices. Strip him as you may of his present patronage, still it is quite impossible to avoid the necessity of leaving with him the sole power to appoint, in some