

one word would have fallen from my lips, had it not been for the remarks of the gentleman from Frederick (Mr. Thomas). I was rather gratified at the manner in which that gentleman spoke of the Eastern Shore and its inhabitants some weeks ago, because, having taken a tour through that interesting section of the State, he knew something about it.

With those who speak disparagingly of it, I sympathize more than I feel offended—I rather pity than feel offended at their ignorance, and for their better information will tell them—

It is the land, of every land the pride,
Beloved by heaven o'er all the world beside;
A land of beauty, virtue, valor, truth,
Time-tutored age, and love-exalted youth;
When brighter suns dispense serener light,
And milder moons imparadise the night;
The wandering mariner, whose eye explores
The wealthiest isles, the most enchanting shores,
Views not a realm so beautiful and fair,
Nor breathes the spirit of a purer air;
Oh! thou shalt find, howe'er thy footsteps roam,
That land thy country, and that spot thy home.

The gentleman from Frederick has told the house, that he had consulted with gentlemen from the Eastern Shore upon the subject of his gubernatorial divisions, and they were approved by them. The gentleman from Kent (Mr. Chambers) promptly disclaims any such consultation, and I am very certain there has been none with this wing of it. The gentleman has been quite select in the choice of his company. As a matter of taste I have nothing to object, but if it is intended to convey the idea that none other than those consulted are worthy of being advised with, I have only to say that I claim to represent as high-minded, as intelligent, and as independent a people as ever lived in the tide of time.

In the preceding portion of my remarks, Mr. President, I traced the practice and usages of this government in relation to the election of its governors: that they were taken alternately from each shore until the year 1836, when the spirit of innovation, stalking abroad throughout the land led to the division of the state into three gubernatorial districts, the Eastern Shore composing one, and the Western Shore two of those districts. In this change the Eastern Shore lost one third. It is now proposed by the gentleman from Frederick to divide the state into four districts, one on the Eastern and three on the Western Shore. No, sir, it is worse than that; as though she had not suffered wrongs enough already, but the last ounce is to be added to the camel's back—she is to be denied the poor privilege of even constituting one of the four districts. Harford is to be tacked on to her.—Thus, losing her identity, she is to become “small by degrees, and beautifully less,” until her weight and influence evaporate, and she is finally swallowed up bodily.

The gentleman in his argument the other day urged that it was right and proper that Baltimore city should constitute a district because of her peculiar interest being separate and distinct from the other portions of the state. What be-

comes of that argument? When, I ask, why Harford should be attached to the Eastern Shore? What affinity or connection have they? The truest test of a principle is to be found in the universality of its application. Apply the rule here and tell me why the Eastern Shore should not remain as intact as Baltimore city.

Attempts have been made to produce the impression that there are those in this Convention who are prejudiced against and inimical to the prosperity of that rapidly increasing and beautiful city. If there be any such in this assembly, I have no communion with them. Within her limits I am proud to recognize many valued friends and relatives; and if it were otherwise, her wide walks encompass not one man, woman or child whose happiness I would not gladly promote. I would rejoice that her canvas whitened every sea, and her enterprise filled her coffers with the rich fruits of her expanding commerce. The same sentiments inspire my breast towards every other section of our State. Nor is there any incompatibility between them and a firm adherence to the rights, and an unshaken devotion to the interest of my own, my native shore. He that provides not for his own household has denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

In addition to the wrong contemplated in this bill, by a vote of this body a few days ago, this portion of your State was shorn of one tenth of her relative influence in the House of Delegates. This was the unkindest cut of all; for several of her own sons aided in the infliction of the fatal blow by which she fell, to rise, it may be, no more for ever. By the change in the apportionment of delegates in 1836, she lost four; by the present she is to be divested of seven; and thus, in every turn of the wheel of this political lottery, we plainly see she is doomed to be the loser. I gave no aid nor countenance to the paricalid deed. My skirts are clear. I have done my utmost to stay the uplifted hand of the executioner, and save my country from political annihilation.

But, sir, the lights of a new era have dawned upon our hitherto benighted visions. This age of progress, replete with modern Latons, has at length discovered that the wisdom of our fathers in giving stability to our institutions is nothing short of sheer folly and stupidity; as if change and revolution, without regard to improvement, were of themselves the very essence of good government, we are to have a convocation similar to the present once in every ten years. *Labitur et labetur in omne volubilis ovum.*

By the provisions of the old constitution, under which we have lived and prospered for more than seventy years, it is prudently arranged, that when any alteration is proposed to be made in the organic law, such alteration shall be first submitted to the people, who, with a full knowledge of all the facts, will be enabled discreetly to select delegates for the ratification or rejection of the proposed change, without incurring any additional expense beyond the cost of an ordinary session of the Legislature. Under the new regime, this cannot be the case;