

subjects of State policy; and it therefore becomes a matter for gentlemen here to determine for themselves, whether the recollections of this little boy of thirteen years of age, is to be relied upon after a lapse of twelve years. Especially would he inquire whether these recollections were to be relied upon, when in conflict with his own declarations. He himself, at that time, was certainly over twenty-one years of age, and a candidate for a seat in the House of Delegates, of Maryland. He was not much in the habit of speaking without some reflection, and always felt responsible for the opinions which he uttered, and he would add that this speech was not delivered without due reflection, and under a proper sense of the responsibility of his position.

What he did say, upon that occasion, and what he had said upon other occasions was this. That he had never voted to appropriate one cent of the public money to any work of internal improvement. That he had been a member of the committee upon internal improvements, at a time when this internal improvement mania was running wild throughout Maryland, and throughout the whole country. That at that time, and ever since, he had opposed in committee, and out of committee, in the House, and out of the House, every proposition to appropriate the public money to works of internal improvements, which had come before the Legislature whilst honored with a seat here. He had said farther; that there was a sinking fund provided sufficient to meet the principal of the public debt and that the annual accruing interest, was the only thing to be provided for. He stated also, that the internal improvement works, were all mortgaged to the State of Maryland for the payment of the interest of the public debt, that they had up to that time, paid the interest, and if the continued to pay the interest promptly, there would be no taxes on account of these public works; and if these provisions were all complied with, he would hold himself responsible for the taxes. These were the opinions, sir, and this the argument used upon that occasion, *nothing more, and nothing less*. Now, sir, he would ask if there be any gentleman here or elsewhere, who would deny the truthfulness of these propositions? No sir, they are self evident, and cannot be controverted.

Mr. PHELPS said in conclusion, he would remark, that not only this much abused speech, but all his public acts, had passed under review by his constituents, again and again, and upon each and every occasion, he had been triumphantly sustained by them. Not only was he elected in thirty-nine, but upon every occasion since, when he had asked an election at their hands. From the period of that memorable speech, in thirty-nine, to this day, with the exception of one year, when he was not a candidate, he had been connected with the public councils of Maryland, either as a member of the House of Delegates, of the State Senate, or of this Constitutional

Convention. This, sir, he said, was his vindication of this charge; this, his triumphant acquittal by his own people, and he felt proud to say that nothing more satisfactory to himself, could be placed upon the records of the proceedings of this justly distinguished and honorable body, than this statement of facts. He would again repeat, that he felt proud of the opportunity allowed him, of placing himself right upon the record.

Mr. STEWART said that although a boy of thirteen, there was enough on that occasion indelibly to fasten itself upon his recollection. It was the first political meeting he had ever attended, and the delight in hearing such a distinguished man as Dr. PHELPS, whom he had never then seen, but often heard of, must naturally have made a deep impression upon him. He could recal various incidents which would satisfy the gentleman that his recollection was distinct. He did not think that the gentleman himself would contend that he had said a single word at that time against internal improvements. He believed the gentleman might see the day yet, when he could wish that he had advocated them and voted for them. He, (Mr. S.,) belonged to a party that was opposed, in principle, to governments engaging in internal improvements; yet, nevertheless, he must say, that he believed those of this State, would in the end, work out great profit to the State, and give her a name abroad.

Mr. PHELPS said, that he had not introduced the subject of internal improvements. He had merely suggested that if territory was to be recognized at all, it should be recognized in the apportionment of representatives. He had no further explanation to make than he had already made a hundred times. Every man in Dorchester county, knew that he had stated the argument correctly.

The question being taken upon the amendment moved by Mr. SCHLEY, to strike out the proviso, it was rejected.

The question then recurred upon the amendment moved by Mr. PHELPS.

Mr. SCHLEY said that the amendment appeared to him defective, in not providing any mode by which the sense of the people could be legally ascertained. He was not prepared, however, at present, to offer an amendment to accomplish that object.

Mr. McHENRY then offered as a substitute for the section and amendment, the following:

"New counties may be formed out of any one or more existing counties, whenever a majority of the voters thereof declare through the ballot-box, in a manner prescribed by the Legislature, their wish for such division and formation. But no new county shall be established which, under the provisions of this Constitution, shall be entitled to less than three members of the House of Delegates, or the establishment of which would leave the county or counties divided entitled to a less number. And in all cases, the separation shall be made by commissioners chosen by the electors of the county or counties to be divided."

Mr. DORSEY moved to amend the substitute by adding at the end thereof, the following proviso: