

It appears to me that every liberal, unprejudiced mind must adopt the same conclusion, if he adverts to the manner in which the State has been distrusted, and to the fact that the treasurer and not the Governor has been made umpire as between the commissioners.

He, [Mr. DORSEY,] most cordially concurred in the sentiments avowed by the gentleman from Frederick, that party politics should never be introduced into our works of internal improvement. Their successful accomplishment and prosperity imperatively demanded such an exclusion, and, therefore, had he been in the place of the Legislature in the appointment of State's agents, he would have selected them from both political parties, and in the appointment of the directors of the joint stock improvement companies the State's agents should have selected them in like manner. Regarding some such measure as that now before us indispensably necessary to the vital interests and future prosperity of the city of Baltimore and the State of Maryland, and not expecting from the democratic portion of the Convention a support to so liberal and desirable a proposition as that now under consideration, he acknowledged that he was prepared to have given his vote in favor of the report of the committee by which these commissioners were to have been elected by a general ticket, whereby, he believed, that through the overwhelming vote of the city of Baltimore, there would be secured to the democratic party, if it desired it for any political purposes, the election of all the commissioners of the public works from the democratic ranks. He was willing thus far to sacrifice the interests of his party for the public good; his rule of action always having been "to go for justice and his country against all parties." He remembered, and should never forget the abhorrence he had felt during the war of 1812, on reading for the first time the following extract from an eastern paper: "perish the country, but let the party triumph." And that feeling, [he would not so far respect it as to call it sentiment,] was said to be, if not adopted, measurably practised by a set of politicians of that day called "blue light federalists," who rejoiced at the victory of our enemies and denied to their country, as far as they had power, the means necessary to our successful prosecution of the war. But this spirit was denounced by that universally revered patriot, John Eager Howard, and by Roger B. Taney and many others, whom he could name of the federal party to whom those "blue light federalists" showed their hostility, by applying to them opprobrious epithets.

He expressed regrets that whispers of his political friends around him, too audible not to have reached his ears, had informed him that he was not, by them, any longer regarded as a whig, but as one who had gone over to the enemy. Such insinuations, if founded in sincerity, which he could not believe, could not exert the slightest influence upon him. According to the dictates of his own judgment and conscience he was faithfully discharging a positive duty; he had but one road to travel, and from it he could not be made to depart. He regarded the measure now under

consideration as one involving in the highest degree the pecuniary interests and prosperity of the State of Maryland and city of Baltimore, which, in his view, were inseparably connected. And its decisions, he, therefore, esteemed above all questions of mere party politics, and in no wise to be influenced by them. He, therefore, conjured his political friends, the whigs, coolly and deliberately to weigh the grave, momentous question now before the Convention, and not incur the awful responsibility of causing the rejection of a measure so vitally important to the best interests of the State, because, in its operation it would turn out of office five whigs, at a salary of one hundred dollars each, [all of which was necessarily expended in itinerant charges in performing their official duties,] and would substitute in their places two whigs and two democrats of at least equal qualifications and claims, and would constitute a board where party politics should never be named or felt in connection with the business before it, or because of the unfounded suspicion resulting from its apparent fairness and propriety of the proposition, that some sinister political advantage must have been designed, and the deduction thereof is made in consequence of the source whence it emanated.

Such conduct, from any such motive, would be any thing but complimentary, to the justice, candor and intelligence of its authors. Sir, in no part of Maryland were the people more indignant, or violently opposed to the unjust and unreasonable effort of Baltimore to obtain as uncontrolled a sway over the Legislature of Maryland, as it has over the election of its Governor, under the compromised amendments of the Constitution in 1836, than were the freemen of Howard District. And none would have gone further in resisting the unhallowed attempt. But when the rights and interests of Baltimore are unjustly invaded, or attempted to be impaired, all former causes of dissension is, for the time being, buried in oblivion, and its own citizens would not sooner rush to its defence than would the citizens of Howard District. Were I to oppose the wise, the just, and salutary measure now under consideration, and should thereafter return to Howard District, the place of my nativity, I feel assured that I should be received with looks so cold and chilling, that if I had before indulged aspirations for elevation by popular favor, they would sink too low, ever to rise again, without seeking a new constituency.

The opponents of the article for the appointment of commissioners of public works have argued the question as if the sole object of the article was to displace the present State's Agents, that new State's Agents, in their places, might be appointed, for the discharge of the same duties, and nothing more than were imposed on the old board of Agents. Such an assumption is wholly inconsistent with the obvious construction of the article, whether interpreted according to its letter or its spirit.

But, to test the weight of our opponent's argument, let it be conceded that the issue between us is that which arises on their misconception or mis-statement of facts, (no intentional mis-state-