

Black spirits and white,
Red spirits and gray;
Mingle, mingle, mingle,
You that mingle may.

This, sir, is the unfortunate condition of things in this Hall. When doctors differ, who shall decide? These endless differences of opinion as to the time and appropriate remedies, ought to be accommodated in a spirit of mutual conciliation. I would beg gentlemen to remember that "prudence dictates that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes." This is the language of the Declaration of Independence, and the words and sentiment are those of wisdom. They admonish us that it is unwise in any people to unsettle fixed principles of government, unless it be for reasons obvious and urgent, such as to resist oppression, to dethrone a tyrant, or to subserve the purposes of liberty. It will scarcely be contended that such necessity exists under our present form of government.

Sir, when a people are free, prosperous and happy, when they are, in the language of the distinguished gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Johnson,) speaking of his constituents—the most intelligent, learned and patriotic, the most thriving, the most independent, the most every thing that could adorn the human character—having around them every thing the human heart could desire—then, sir, it would be suicidal to overthrow that Constitution, which has made them what they are, and which dispensed to them such blessings. And when the gentleman from Frederick made these eulogistic remarks, I instinctively raised my hand and said, "for mercy sake, what more do you want—you have all that human heart can desire, and more than the ordinary share of blessings which fall to the lot of men, and yet it seems, you are not satisfied." How can you satisfy men, then? Go to Frederick, where it is said the nature of their land will yield you forty bushels of wheat to the acre, and where they have railroads and turnpikes, and every thing to add to their prosperity, and with a representation in the Legislature and here, equal to their population, and yet forsooth they are not satisfied. And what is the reason? Why they have got everything, but one little, small crumb from the small counties. They have a representation too, and among the number is old St. Mary's, the mother of them all. Now, sir, I know your heart, (addressing Mr. Buchanan,) your heart is in the right place. I don't know, but I hope your parents are living. I don't believe if your mother or father be living, and who had nurtured you in your infancy, and who had spent their means to educate you and make you the man that you are, that you would be ingrate enough to refuse to do all in your power to make there condition in life as comfortable to them as possible. If you would, then you are not the man I take you to be.

Mr. B. said the gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Thomas,) in some remarks which he made, which did equal credit to his head and heart, and in a strain of eloquence that he would not at-

tempt to imitate, had stated that if his father had been living, he perhaps never would have been in the ranks of the democratic party, for he would have followed in the footsteps of his parent. He would commend gentleman to a political application of this sentiment.

There was still another set of reformers which he was inclined to believe was becoming the most numerous. He referred to those reformers who happened to hold offices, and of course he was not alluding to any member of that body. But if there should be any member of that body, who happened to have an office and who by the action of the Convention should be turned out—if there should be a thorough-going Lowe democrat, who believed he would not be retained in office by the formation of a new Constitution, he was inclined to think that such an one would be mighty anti-reform in his notions of appointment to office.

If also there should be a good Clarke whig who was in office, and who expected to be turned out by the present incumbent of the executive office as no doubt he would, he would be in favor of reform in regard to the election of officers by the people. If there should be a good democrat out of office who thought his chance of success better before the people than with the executive, for reasons best known to himself, he, too, would most likely be a reformer. If there should be a good whig out of office, and who had an eye to the loaves and fishes, ("*rara avis in terris*,") whose only hope was in popular elections, he, too, most surely, would be an out and out reformer, so far as his desire for office prompted him. All these enumerated classes are no doubt most purely patriotic in their opinions, being unconscious of any, even the slightest taint of selfishness, that forms their judgment and controls their action. Who dares deny that such are ingenious and patriotic? None. A man would almost as soon deny his own identity, his own patriotism, both of which might be involved in such denial. But he was about to release them from any further detention by remarks from him. [Cries of "go on, go on."] But, before he took his seat, he would lay down this position, that there was no established principle of government by which all mankind were to be governed. No such principle was any where to be found in any treatise upon the science of government. He challenged the combined intelligence of the Convention to produce an authority in which such a principle was recognised. And surely, if in such an august body as this, distinguished for its wisdom, learning, deep research and general intelligence, no such authority can be produced, he would be justified in saying none such did exist. It was the prerogative of each and every people to make their own system and form of government. An admission of this right, (the denial of which, in these United States, would be nothing short of political heresy,) negatives the existence of such a principle. The right then is admitted to exist. The right and the principle can not both exist together, therefore, the principle does not exist. He invited gentlemen to give their attention to the argument. He would now advert to the doc-