

his political offerings with a hand as cold and unfeeling as the miser's.

I had hoped in Heaven's name, that this miserable spirit of local prejudice would not dare to have raised its head in this august body, where it was expected the political battle-axe was to be buried, and the petty feuds between Democrats and Whigs were, for the time, to find no countenance on either side; and that the paramount question of reorganizing the old government and forming the new Constitution was to be earnestly and honestly considered with an eye single to the promotion of the people's privileges. But we have been doomed to sad disappointment. In the very organization of the Convention the cloven-foot of party shew itself, and the opposition to Reform succeeded in obtaining the mastery. It was a political triumph—a Reform defeat! And so have things dragged their slow length along till now. The time and patience of the people have been severely tested, and the Treasury drained of an enormous amount. Still, amidst all these disheartening appearances, the avowed Reformers supposed they could see the day dawning, and steadily labored on against as talented and well organized opposition as the State could possibly produce. Even we of the Baltimore city delegation had begun to felicitate ourselves that the enemy had given us over as no longer worth the plucking. But, sir, the hand of the political spoiler had marked us for his prey, and the day of vengeance is upon us. All seemed as quiet as an unrippled lake, when lo! the gentleman from Kent, with renewed mind and vigor, raises the storm by proposing to test his favorite plan of subdividing the city of Baltimore into representative districts, and announces his determination to have a vote upon that proposition *per se* before he would yield the triumph. He is about to be gratified—and quickly too I hope, Mr. President; for I am anxious to see the strength of such an isolated proposition in this somewhat renowned and reconsidering body of Maryland statesmen. I repeat, sir, let the test come, and come quickly. The marshalling of party hosts, and the occasional emissions of lightning-like defiance that meet us in this hall have no terrors for me, conscious that I am sustained in my course by a principle having right and justice for its supporting pillars. Of course, Mr. President, I do not impugn the motives of any gentleman—such a thing would be far, very far from my nature or my inclination. But it does seem to my perception that there is but one of two motives to be accomplished by districting the city of Baltimore by herself—it is either for the purpose of defeating the Constitution we are now forming, or for the purpose of acquiring partizan power. One or the other of these motives seem irresistible to my mind. And probably the reading of an extract from the Baltimore Patriot of the 19th April, may cause others to think with me, or it may serve as a key to unravel the mysterious enthusiasm that attaches to the success of this victimizing Baltimore city with certain portions of this Convention.

Mr. S. read the extract as follows:

"From the beginning, their eye (the eye of Locofocoism, as the writer elsewhere expresses it) has been fixed on the absolute enjoyment of the spoils of Baltimore. Nearly a fourth of the population, and quite a fourth in wealth, more than one-third of the whole patronage of the State offices is concentrated here. The profits of clerks and registers, the fees of sheriffs and prosecuting attorneys, the inspectors of flour and tobacco, are of infinite value. The judicial positions will be important levers of power. The collection of taxes remunerates largely. All these, or as many as possible, the Locofocos desire to see elected by the people. That means they wish, under cover of the advocacy of popular elections, to engross at one swoop, in a single city, by a majority of a few hundred, full *one-third* of the profitable offices of the State in value. But Baltimore is rapidly increasing, and soon will be decisive in every election in favor of Locofocoism, if by any means the Whigs can be broken down and disheartened in the city. This will be attained by making all officers eligible by the people in districts, of which Baltimore undivided shall form one. No gentleman of the Whig party from that day, residing in Baltimore, can ever have the slightest prospect of being elected to an office of honor, profit or trust, which depends on the vote of the city. Clerks, registers, judges, State attorneys, inspectors, delegates to the Assembly, members of Congress, are all places made for locofocos—their inheritance and freehold. No man has the slightest encouragement to remain a Whig. Not a few cases of prompt proselytes reaping signal rewards can be called to mind. More will follow when their only prospect of advancement lies on the Locofoco side. The rank and file of the Whig party, the young men of activity and ambition, the many who wield great influence in limited spheres, and could look forward to hold respectable stations in county or city politics, but could have no hopes of the gubernatorial chair or the court of appeals, would be disheartened, dispirited, shrink from a useless conflict, *abandon their organization and silence their voices, till finally, in a few years, the influence of the Whigs in the city would shrink and wither and expire. All young men would grow up Locofocos.* Many brought up under brighter auspices and in better principles would change to the winning side. In ten years the great majority of Baltimore Locofocos would control the whole State. Every general election would become their field of triumph. And the thing so much dreaded, the domination of Baltimore in all matters of State policy, in the election of Governor, and judges of the Court of Appeals, would be complete. The Assembly would soon follow, and the United States Senators would also be gained by the Locofocos. The government of the State will be summed up in the dictatorship of Baltimore Locofocoism."

Comment on this extract is hardly necessary. It carries its own antidote with it. *The spoils—THE SPOILS*—a division of the offices in the city of Baltimore, or "no man has the slightest encouragement to remain a Whig!" What a con-