

body and soul, flesh and blood and muscle, time and labor and service, of a human being?—that I have a right to control and regulate his very volitions and turn them in any channel at my will?" And I must confess that, not only did the reason of childhood fail to answer in conformity with the generally received notions and traditions fostered by this institution, but that the honest reflections of maturer years have taught me, that the instincts of innocent childhood were but in accordance with the great principles of *natural right and justice* which lie at the basis of God's *moral* administration in the affairs of men.

Is it true that because a human being is born in Africa, and with a black skin, a man born in Europe or America, and with a fair skin, has the right to enslave him—to deprive him of his God-like and God-given liberty? Is it true that because, as a race, his intellectual status and culture falls below that of some other races, therefore a race superior in these respects, possesses the right to coil the fetters of perpetual bondage around that attribute that raises him above the brute, and reflects, however feebly, his Creator's image? Sir, he that claims that slavery is not a violation of natural right, must answer these questions affirmatively. More than this—he must override and trample into the dust, the very principle which constituted the foundation of American independence and liberty, and whose development, under the guardianship of heaven, wrought for us our civil and religious blessings. In that immortal document, the enunciation of whose doctrines sent a thrill to the oppressed of every land, and made tyrants tremble and their thrones to totter, certain truths are held to be *self-evident*, among which is this: "that all men are created free and equal, and have an inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

It is true sir, the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Berry,) in advance of the argument on this question, has attempted, by what he evidently considered a masterly and triumphant movement of logical strategy, to compel us to the evacuation of this high and commanding position, and reduce us to the humiliating alternative of fighting this battle on ground of his own selection. But, sir, let us reconnoitre the ground a few moments, and I think we shall find that the marshalled hosts of freedom have not yielded one inch; and that the flag of those hosts, first unfurled to the astonished gaze of tyrants, on the 4th of July, 1776, though oft insulted, still floats majestically and defiantly over the scene of the conflict.

The heavy ordnance, expressly manufactured for the occasion, and laboriously dragged by a superannuated team to the charge, though heavily loaded with solid shot, was manifestly charged with the powder of a de-

fect sophism, and the only harm done by the big balls which slipped lazily from the muzzle, was that occasioned by their gravitation down hill, to the lower limbs of the assaulting columns.

The gentleman, assuming to speak for the intelligent framers of that masterly document, asserted that they only meant that all *white men were equally free to enjoy the rights of civil government.*

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I think the gentleman has misrepresented me; I am sure not intentionally.

Mr. TODD. Not intentionally.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I stated that this was a government of white men; that the Constitution of the United States was framed for their government, and their government alone.

Mr. TODD. Then what I have stated follows legitimately from what the gentleman has now reiterated. He asserted that they could not be understood as asserting that all men are alike in their mental and physical organization—a proposition no one disputes—that they differ, to use his beautiful and appropriate metaphor, *as one leaf upon the waving branch differeth from another.*

But the gentleman accidentally omitted to trace out to their legitimate results the points presented in his simile. He will not think unkindly of me for relieving him of the task. It is true, sir, that the leaves differ. They differ in *form, size, color and feature.* But are they any the less leaves on that account? Are they not all composed of the same organic substances? Are they not all supported by the same parent stock? Do they not all alike breathe the same atmospheric and gaseous nutriment? Are they not all equally blessed with the same pearly dew drops, and with the same bright, blessed sunshine, which paints alike their pure and spotless robes with the same bright beautiful colors? Did not the same Omnipotent hand fashion them all?

Thus, sir, I find that the *points of resemblance* are not only more numerous than the points of diversity, but *paramount*—the gentleman will pardon me the use of that term. The same is true of *mankind*; and I conclude, with George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and all the illustrious galaxy, that our whole race, coming from the same Creator, redeemed by the same precious sacrifice and bound to the same destiny, are entitled to the same *natural inherent* and inalienable rights, among which are *life, liberty and the pursuits of happiness.*

And permit me just here to refer to what the immortal Washington and others have said upon this subject; those same illustrious fathers of our republic, who placed their hands to that immortal document that declared us free.

Jefferson, in his Notes on Virginia, after