

the qualifications of the voters are settled upon the same uniform basis. So that we have the most abundant proofs that among a free and enlightened people, convened for the establishing their own forms of government, and the rights of their own voters, the question as to the due regulation of the qualifications has been deemed a matter of mere State policy, and varied to meet the wants, to suit the prejudices, and to foster the interests of the majority. The subject has been fully canvassed, as one of mere civil polity, to be arranged upon such a basis as the majority may deem expedient, with reference to the moral, physical and intellectual condition of the particular State."

The clause as it stands in the Constitution was adopted by a unanimous vote, and the Federalist remarks "the provisions made by the Convention appear to be the best that lay within their option."

The object of this second section is unmistakable. There are fifteen States of the Union having a large negro population, most of whom have been recently set free from domestic servitude. The object is to require these States to confer upon the negro the right of suffrage, or to deprive them of a large number of their present Constitutional representation. Otherwise, it is said, the Southern States will be great gainers by the rebellion. "The question before Congress," says the Report, "is, whether conquered rebels may change their theatre of operations from the battle field, where they were defeated and overthrown, to the halls of Congress, and through their representatives seize upon the government they fought to destroy; whether the National Treasury, the army of the nation, its navy, its forts and arsenals, its whole civil administration, its credit, its pensioners, the widows and orphans of those who perished in the war, the public honor, peace and safety, shall all be turned over to the keeping of its recent enemies without delay, and without imposing such conditions as, in the opinion of Congress, the security of the country and its institutions may demand." It is somewhat difficult to conceive how this "change of base" could be successfully accomplished. The institution of domestic servitude and the right of secession, both involving the right of self-government as it was asserted by the Confederate States, were the subjects of contest upon the "battle field, where they were defeated and overthrown." How "in the halls of Congress, through their representatives," they could hope for better success, reverse the decision of the "battle field," and "seize upon the government," passes our comprehension.

It is undoubtedly time that freeing the slaves enlarged the basis of representation in the former slave States. But it was an incident which it was well known constitutionally attached to the fact of freedom. Leaving those States still