

having the power in their own hands, was as clear and undoubted, as that it, *of right*, belongs to them, to dispose of as they see proper,—it is known that the large states will not agree to deprive themselves of the power to exercise the decisive weight and influence of an undivided vote, in the primary elections, without the abandonment by the small states, of the *federative* principle which gives them equal weight with the large ones, in contingent choice, and making the elections upon popular principles, or, at least, retaining the same relative power and influence in all subsequent trials. It is, therefore, manifest, that little hope exists of the alterations desirable to us being obtained, without too great a sacrifice—without agreeing to others so destructive of our existing rights and power, as to forbid our assent to them.

The constitution of the United States is the work of some of the wisest heads and purest hearts that were ever devoted to the service of any people.

We should be cautious in making changes in an instrument, the result of the deliberations of such men; and which contains more knowledge and judgment in poising and balancing its various powers, so as to reconcile conflicting feeling, prejudices and interests, than is to be found in any other monument of human genius, the annals of the world can furnish.

The foregoing views of this interesting topic,