

Nearly every wedding and christening in Baltimore brings a flock of relatives from some one or other of the counties, and when some people or anyone tells me, or tries to tell, that there is a difference between the counties and the city, I simply laugh at them, because out of my flock of ten, six were born in Baltimore county and we live there for health five months out of the twelve in every year.

The temptation to spring the new and novel is almost irresistible. It is the rock on which many inexperienced legislators founder. The strong man in any general assembly is the representative who clearly and distinctly expresses convictions which his constituents have already formed. Some say it produces the law of the survival of the fittest; from my observations of almost a generation the man who comes back is the man who best represents the concrete, sound common sense of his community and is wise enough to follow it. Some of us are going to chafe under the criticism and cartoons of the press. This is not new or novel. The first amendment of the Constitution of the United States provides "that Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press." The Constitution of the several States have likewise enacted similar provisions. The State of Maryland, in addition to the Constitution (Article 40, Declaration of Rights), has a comprehensive declaratory statute. These provisions are wise and salutary, and new members, jealous of honor and dignity, may fret for a while under seemingly undeserved writing or criticisms, but if they think for one moment of the bridles now muzzling the press over half the civilized world, they will soon realize that it is the greatest blessing of the many given to mankind to secure individual liberty. Freedom of speech in debate is guaranteed by the Constitution of the State of Maryland in no uncertain terms; Section 18 of Article 3 reads: "No Senator or Delegate shall be liable in any *civil action or criminal prosecution whatever* for words spoken in debate," but no Senator or Delegate in a southern State, the home of chivalry, is going to violate the first principle of a republican form of government—"That liberty is not license and both are subject to law." Free speech is necessary to the operation of government, and our Constitution has thrown around it every protection. Even before our Constitution "Charles by the Grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc., greeting to our well-beloved and trusty subject Cæcelius Calvert, Baron of Baltimore, son and heir of George Calvert," gave him all and singular a large territory de-