

of their political partialities and prejudices, so that when they come to act on the question, which perhaps for weal or wo. may decide the future happiness and prosperity of Maryland, their judgment may be such as, in after time, to afford them consolation for the wisdom and discretion they displayed. I trust that in their action here they may neither turn to the right hand nor to the left. I mean not to inquire whether the vote they intend to give, or the sentiments they utter, is going to make the Whig party, or the Democratic party, or to put one or the other in the ascendancy in Maryland. Sir, I came here for no such purpose. I came here intending to elevate myself above every thing like party, and to endeavor to the utmost of my capacity, to make a Constitution which should redound to our and Maryland's honor. We may very well conclude, when we look at the cumbersome propositions which have been submitted to the consideration of the Convention, that a most unfortunate variety of differences exist. Sir, I do hope and trust that ere we shall have separated, we shall be enabled to settle down upon some principle, which will do equal justice to all portions of Maryland, and command the respect of our respective constituencies. I come from the mother of counties, and would to God I had the power of doing justice to the constituency that I represent; but language is inadequate fairly to portray their real character. Sir, from the first setting of foot upon the soil of Maryland, in 1634, up to the 22d of March, 1851, when I address this Convention, the world has never produced a people who can compare with advantage with the people of St. Mary's. I mean no disparagement to other portions of the State.

I say, sir, that the people of Maryland will proudly compare with any people on the face of the universe. My friend from Caroline, (Mr. Stewart,) in the remarks which he had the honor to submit to the Convention, and which, I am sure, no man listened to with more satisfaction and attention than myself—unintentionally, I am sure, did, what I conceive to be, a great injustice to the people of Maryland, and particularly that portion, which I have the honor to represent.

He never designed it; it is not in his heart to do it, and he will rejoice with me and you, sir, when I put him right. He said the pilgrim fathers drove the Indians from our soil.

Now, sir, to the pride and honor of Maryland, be it spoken, we did not drive them away. I refer to history to sustain the correctness of the position I have here taken. I hold in my hand a book written by one of the most distinguished sons of Maryland—equally distinguished with any other man in the nation.

Sir, my friend was mistaken, and I am sure he will be glad to know that he was mistaken on that point. Permit me to read, if you please, from McMahon's Historical view of the Government of Maryland. I shall only read extracts from it, pages 194-5:

"The emigrants consisted of about two hundred persons, principally Roman Catholics, of

whom, many are said to have been gentlemen of family and fortune. They reached Point Comfort, Virginia, on the twenty-fourth of February following; whence, after a short stay, they sailed up the Potomac in search of a site for their colony. After having taken formal possession of the Province at an Island which they called St. Clements,"—now known as Blakistone's Island.

That, sir, is within a mile or so of the place where your humble speaker resides. No wonder, then, that I, who came from the very spot upon which the pilgrim fathers first planted their feet, should feel an interest that their history should be properly recorded. Sir, it goes on to say, that they went up the Potomac, and finding the situation inconvenient, they "deemed it prudent to return, in search of a location, nearer to the mouth of the river. His, (the Governor's,) intercourse with the savages at Piscataway, although he was kindly received by them, not only there, but throughout his progress up the river, had excited his apprehensions as to the location of his colony at so high a point, where in the event of attack, it might be cut off from retreat. Returning down the Potomac, they entered one of its tributary rivers, running into it from the north near to its mouth. This river, upon which they bestowed the name of St. George's river, is known at this day by the name of St. Mary's river. It flows into the Potomac between ten and twelve miles above its mouth; and alike, most of the other rivers arising in the champaign country, adjacent to the bay, at its mouth, and for several miles above it, it is a bold, deep and wide stream. Sailing up this river about six or seven miles, they came to an Indian town on the eastern side of the river, called Yaocomoco, situated immediately upon the river. The site of this town, the improvements already made around it, by the Indians, and the depth and security of the navigation from the Potomac to that point, presented every facility which the Governor could desire for the settlement of his colony."

Sir, it will be remembered that this was Leonard Calvert, George Calvert having died, to whom the charter was intended to be given, and Leonard came over to preside over the colony. He having been appointed by Cecilius Calvert.

"His first act was one of justice and humanity towards the aborigines, which presents a striking contrast to the first establishment of the other colonies. What is now termed by some an act of cruelty, was at that day considered an act of almost unexampled humanity. He purchased the town from the Indians, and established his colony within it by their consent."

He purchased it. "In pursuance of his agreement with the natives, the colony was disembarked at the town of Yaocomoco, on the 27th of March, 1634, (we are within five days of the landing of the Pilgrims,) and took possession of it by the name of St. Mary's. Then, and thus landed the Pilgrims of Maryland, and then and thus were laid the foundations of the old city of St. Mary's, and of our present State."

I read this for the purpose of correcting history as stated by the gentleman from Caroline; and I