

was the club of Hercules." It was not an original expression with him. He had only referred to an editorial which appeared in one of the Baltimore papers, and where the ground was taken that the Democrats ought not to part with Executive patronage in the Convention, until they had secured power in some other way—he presumed it meant by representation.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city, said that his only object was to correct the gentleman, and he would read the article.

Mr. B. accordingly read the following extract referred to in an editorial article of the Baltimore "Argus."

Before the people of Baltimore should agree to any compromise of the basis of representation, short of their just rights to equal participation in the government, they should require as preliminary conditions the following, viz:—

1st. That the right of the people to call a convention periodically, say every ten years, should be guaranteed and fully provided for in the Constitution, without leaving it dependant on the caprice of the Legislature in any respect, otherwise posterity will have no stipulated remedy to effect such reforms as the progress of humanity will require.

"2d. That the Executive Department shall be elective by the people in the same way, for the same term and at the same times as now provided for; otherwise, if we agree to a scheme of adjustment for representation, the Convention may go on to adopt the report made by the Whig minority of the committee on the Executive, abridging the term of the present Governor, *fresh from the people*, to two years, and providing thereafter for an election of Governor every four years, in order to bring about the election of Governor and President of the United States on the same day—thus, as it is hoped, insuring Whig Governors by bringing out their full vote at the same time for President. If the cloven-foot of Whiggery shall thus appear stamped on the Constitution, it will and ought to rally the whole Democratic party to oppose it, especially if it strips the Executive of that patronage which has proved itself the club of Hercules in the hands of the great Reform Democratic party.

"3d. The overthrow and re-organization of the entire Judiciary system, to take effect so soon as practicable.

"If these three principles could be secured as preliminary, then in the absence of better terms, the people of Baltimore ought to consent to such a basis of representation as would give her double the power of the largest county in both the House of Delegates and Senate.

"To condense the whole proposition, I would not surrender the Executive patronage, now wielded through the Governor by the sovereign people who elect him, by aggregate votes, until I had secured to posterity the remedy for vindicating their rights against even the basis now to be taken, because it will after all but be a *mitigation of injustice and inequality*; nor should the Democratic party surrender the Executive patronage, which will certainly be thrown away

by this Convention, without first securing the same mode and time of electing the Governor as heretofore; otherwise, the Democratic party would for an increase of six members in Baltimore city, (which is not enough to secure the Legislature on joint ballot) be called on to give up the Governor for all future time to the Whigs; also to surrender for distribution, among the Whig counties, that patronage which the Democratic Executive now possesses.

"Such important advantages should not be sold or surrendered, until we obtain the certain guaranties of the rights of the people to have a future Convention, and to keep the Executive Department free from the schemes of the Whig politicians. Then and not till then would I agree to adopt a basis of adjustment, which does not secure us a majority in the Legislature; and then will I be willing to strip the Executive of all his important patronage."

Mr. BLAKISTONE, for the purpose of understanding the article, re-read it, and remarked that he understood that the principle of the reform party was to give all the power into the hands of the people. If by taking patronage from the hands of the Governor and giving it to the people, they stripped the people of all power, he must confess that it was a new idea to him and one that he did not understand. He was content, however, that the gentleman from Baltimore should have the full benefit of the discovery.

Mr. HOWARD said, that he did not rise for the purpose of making a prepared speech. He had no notes, and he was apprehensive, therefore, that he might fail in expressing some of those thoughts which had induced him to claim the attention of the Convention for a short time only.

He had heard opinions advanced to-day by the gentleman from the city of Baltimore, (Mr. Brent,) to which he entirely dissented, and to which he thought the people also, whom that gentleman represented, would dissent. Furthermore, he had looked at the course which the gentleman was pursuing here, and thought it as well qualified to destroy the dearest wishes of his constituents as any course he could take. If the gentleman had intended to defeat the Constitution, he could not have pursued a course more effectually qualified to do so. He did not mean, however, to impute any such motives to the gentleman. It was only a difference of opinion.

Mr. BRENT, (interposing,) said he had only to say, in reference to the remarks of the gentleman, that he was welcome to his opinion, but he had no right to denounce him, and to bring the weight of his character against him. He (Mr. B.) was prepared to respond to his people, and let the gentleman do so in regard to his.

Mr. HOWARD said, that he did not lecture the gentleman, but would certainly claim the privilege here of expressing whatever opinions he chose to entertain. The gentleman had spoken of the people of Baltimore. Why, for half a century he had passed his years among them as man and boy. It was now more than a quarter of a century since he represented them in this hall, and there used individual reproach for allowing