

in the counties towards the city of Baltimore. I have heard it alledged here, that there is a feeling of hostility in the counties towards that city. I, for one, deny it. The evidences of the past are against that conclusion, and so far as I know the people, no such spirit is cultivated, countenanced, or even tolerated in the counties. Are we not all Marylanders? Have we not all a common interest in the growth, prosperity, wealth and future destiny of this proud old confederate of the original Thirteen? And though divided at times, in opinion, as to the true policy of the State, and the Federal Government, on questions of great moment, yet that difference of opinion is amicable, and whatever the result may be, the people acquiesce in the decisions of a majority, and things move on as before. If any section of this State is obnoxious to the charge of disaffection, towards the aggrandizement of Baltimore city, the county that I, in part, represent, might, from her geographical position, be supposed to be that section. Yet, I know of no such feeling there. What are the facts, in reference to that county? The fourth county in the State, in point of territory, and with a population of over eighteen thousand souls, eleven thousand reside between the Pocomoke river and the Atlantic coast. That river is, for the most part, one in name, more than reality, being unnavigable until it reaches the lower part of the county. Hence the trade and commerce of that large scope of country, lying between the Pocomoke and the Atlantic, amounting at least to two-thirds of the whole county is directed to the cities of New York and Philadelphia. It is estimated that the exports of the county to New York and Philadelphia of Indian corn alone, cannot fall short of three hundred thousand bushels. There is quite a large export of other products also. On this three hundred thousand bushels of Indian corn, we have to pay a freight of nine cents on the bushel, which is an excess of five cents over the average freights from the bay shore counties to Baltimore city. This difference, on that article alone, amounts to \$15,000. The same disproportion of freight on other exports, would probably swell the amount to \$20,000. Thus we pay annually, because of the natural restrictions upon commerce—in the way of indirect taxation—the sum of \$20,000. A sum, more than the county levy and direct taxes, both put together. With a long and shallow inland bay, running parallel with the coast, and only divided, by an irregular string of beach, from the ocean, we perhaps labor under greater disadvantages than any portion of the State. That is not all, tardy and hazardous as our commercial operations are, we are dependent upon the State of Virginia for an outlet to the ocean. Our forests of oak, and pine, immensely valuable for ship building and other purposes, and the millions of cord wood skirting that whole coast, all remain as standing monuments of a primeval age, and a mute comment upon the policy of the State towards us. Besides this, the great interests of agriculture, suffer in a proportionate degree, from the fact, that most of our soils are deficient in calcareous substances, and the disabilities we labor under to

obtain them, in consequence of the impediments in navigation and costs of freight. So that you see, the remarks of the gentleman from Dorchester, (Mr. Phelps,) some time ago, that we need no increased facilities of commerce, because of the natural channels leading to every man's door, does not apply to us. While he pays three cents freight on a bushel of grain, we pay three times that sum; while a cord of wood on his farm is worth two dollars, it is worth nothing to us. And the difference in the costs of fertilizers for the soil, hangs as an incubus upon the spirit and enterprise of the agricultural interests of my county. And yet there is annually levied upon the scanty resources, and wrung from the hard earnings of that people, the sum of \$8,758, to develop the hidden treasures of other portions of the State, and indirectly enhance the wealth of Baltimore city! A city, now third in the Union, and destined, I trust to outstrip her northern contemporaries at no distant day, in population, wealth and commerce; of which destiny the signs of the times are full of the most flattering promise.

I state these facts to show that the charge of hostility to Baltimore city, does not lie at our door, and I state them also, as evidence of the patriotism and integrity of the people in whose name I speak. Why, sir, instead of our being hostile to Baltimore city, the demands made upon us for relinquishment of political power, is evidence that that is the feeling entertained towards us by that city.

Gentlemen may guild the bate as they see fit, and commend it to the palate of others if they can, but I shall, on this subject, consult the first principle in nature—self-preservation. Take from us this power of self-preservation, and you will take that which will not enrich you, but will make us poor indeed. Commend the surrender of this sacred trust, confided to my keeping, because it will advance the interests of the Whig party, or the Democratic party? In this Convention I know no party, and I mean to know none. A Whig in principle, I hold my seat here by virtue of a mutual confidence of both those parties, and so long as I shall be able to understand the true interests of my county, I shall never consult party oracles or party predilections. Why then are gentlemen so tenacious of an abstract principle, and think us obstinate, because we do not chime in with their views? Will they not desist, and join with us in perfecting those other reforms and retrenchments, so much desired by the people, and so necessary to the well being of the whole State? Or shall we spend our energies in vain, and like the mountain in labor, bring forth a mouse? Can we offer nothing better than an abstraction, for the ratification of the people? A truce to this strife. Let us meet the great question of retrenchment in good faith to the people, and on the sixth of June next we shall hear from the Alleganies to the Atlantic, the voice of a grateful people, proclaiming well done good and faithful servants. Disregard their reasonable expectations, and one universal cry of execration will roll through the length and breadth of the State, and fearful in-