

lieve I have planted myself upon a foundation of right and justice, and

"These pillars, walls, and all, shall fly
From their firm base as soon as I."

As long as there is one base left, I would die struggling for that base, boldly maintaining, in the face of Maryland, the great principle of equal rights and equal privileges.

And I tell you my friend, [speaking to Mr. Morgan,] that if the true sentiment and feeling of Montgomery were fully represented on this floor, old St. Mary's would have five instead of three votes from that county, to help her out in this hour of need, upon this important and vital question.

Mr. BREWER said:

That it had been his intention to occupy but a humble position in this body; and he had entertained no intention to address the Convention upon any subject, believing that he could as well define his position by his votes as by his speeches. But, the unexpected attack made upon him by one of his colleagues, [Mr. Kilgour,] compelled him to place himself right before the Convention, his immediate constituents, and the citizens of Maryland. He was but an humble delegate, he admitted, from Montgomery, and in his campaign for a seat in this hall, before the citizens of his county, he took the bold and daring ground, (if it were so to be termed,) that representation according to population, in the popular branch, was the only true basis of a republican form of government, and although he was from a county of two hundred and fifty strong against him, politically, he appeared upon that floor a delegate, only seven behind the foremost gentleman, and but three behind the second. The people of his county knew well his sentiments; they knew that he held the ultra doctrine of representation according to population. He believed the principal in itself right; it was the basis upon which this free institution of our general government rested. He would here assimilate the State government with the general government of these United States. The small State of Delaware with her one delegate in the representative hall, with her two senators, was as safe and secure in the government, as the great and growing State of New York, with her overwhelming majority in the popular branch, and her two senators in the conservative branch. What was the meaning of a representative form of government? It was that in one branch of the Legislature the voice of the majority of the people should be heard through their delegates. The conservative branch of the government was the Senate, and it was upon this basis he stood upon that floor, and that he at least was willing to give to the city of Baltimore an honorable and just representation in the House of Delegates. He had no disposition to silence the voice in the councils of our State. He admired her for her monuments, her learning, and

her wealth; and she was justly the pride and the glory of the State.

But this Convention had been called upon to mourn over the Constitution of 1776. Permit me to refer to that Constitution. But before doing so, he would say that no one upon that floor, could venerate the deeds of the revolution, more than he did, nor the fathers who framed that Constitution. Doubtless, at the time the Constitution was adopted, the restrictions therein contained, were necessary and proper for the preservation of the institution of the State. He would, in all human probability, have been in favor of the same restrictions, had he lived in the days of 1776. But in the nineteenth century, could any gentleman upon that floor, rise in his place, and declare to this Convention, that he venerated and respected all the articles of that Constitution, when the very second article required thirty pounds worth of property to entitle a freeman to vote for a delegate for the House of Representatives. See 2nd sec., Constitution.

Would any gentleman, in his place, dare assert that he advocated, upon this floor, such doctrines as contained in the article just read? Would he dare go to his constituents, and inform them, that he had advocated such a principle and desired it to be inserted in the new Constitution? If there was, he was not that delegate.

Let us examine further into this Constitution, upon which we had heard such an eulogy, from the gentleman from Montgomery. In the thirtieth article is contained the following sentiment:

"No person, unless above twenty-five years of age, a resident in this State above five years, next preceding the election, (and having in the State real and personal property, above the value of five thousand pounds current money, one thousand pounds whereof at least, to be of freehold estate,) shall be eligible as Governor."

He would ask again, could any individual in this age of civilization and science, be willing to insert such a provision as that just read in this organic law, which we are now endeavoring to frame. Again, in the forty-second article to which he would call the attention of this Convention, would be found in the following language:

"All freemen above the age of twenty-one years, having a freehold of fifty acres of land in the county in which they offer to ballot and residing therein, shall have a right of suffrage."

These were some of the features of that old Constitution, upon which we had heard such an eloquent eulogy. He would ask the gentleman from Montgomery, if these were his views, and if he were willing now to have these restrictions inserted in the new Constitution, about being made for the citizens of Maryland. These qualifications doubtless, were necessary at that period of our political existence. But when this State became peopled by our own citizens, persons born among us, with interest identical, it became necessary to erase those restrictions from the Constitution; and yet in this, the nineteenth century, when science, literature and the fine arts, were so rapidly progressing, we were informed that this Convention ought to adopt such mea-