

body of reformers of the State had esteemed worthy of their unlimited confidence—men who had shared the storm and sunshine of popular opinion, and had proved unflinching champions of reform at all times and upon all occasions. He was glad to follow the lead of such men.

Mr. BRENT asked whether his colleague intended to be understood that he did not follow his own judgment, but the leadership of others. For himself he would say, that while he respected the opinions of others, he followed the leadership of no man.

Mr. PRESSTMAN remarked, that words had been said to be intended for the purpose of concealing thoughts. He did not mean to say that like a Spaniel he would obey, the bidding of a master, but that in his moral and intellectual nature, he was proud to recognize leaders. The American army had looked to Washington as a leader. And all political parties had recognised leading men, such as Cass, Webster, and others.

He, (Mr. P.,) had no difficulty in submitting his own judgment to be, in some degree, controlled by a man in whom virtue and intelligence, he reposed confidence, but he was rather slow in the selection of a leader, and he never would choose one who had been tried and found wanting.

He hoped that in any mere matter of personal consequence he would be able to meet the issue, be it what it might; but he thanked God that he had not the never to hazard upon his individual judgment the great and growing interests of his constituency. His most esteemed friend from Baltimore county, (Mr. Howard,) was one of that class of men he had been early taught to regard as worthy of all confidence. He had been taught every principle of government recognized as correct in the school in which such a man was held in high esteem, and whose words were regarded as full of wisdom and patriotism. Times may have changed, but sir, it is not in my power to change one sentiment long since formed, and will be forever cherished, that no great or good cause can triumph, if the public sentiment is indifferent to the voice of those, who, in every position of life, adorn the character of a good citizen. If to be distinguished for learning, tried patriotism, incorruptible integrity is to be a sure mark of public odium, then indeed the past of honor will have become the private station. He was not unwilling to admit that he would be ready to follow the lead of the gentleman from Baltimore county, (Mr. Howard.) The name which he had used, had been identified with the battle fields of the revolution; and was now cherished with just pride by the descendants of the Maryland line.

He did not know what new names might be invoked; what new lights were to dawn upon us; but he would declare that when the influence of such men was lost in the city of Baltimore, every patriotic emotion would be extinct, under the shadow of her monuments.

He knew well the character of his friend and colleague. (Mr. Brent.) He was a bold, fearless, honorable advocate of any principle he adopted. But he might also add, that while he accorded him these characteristics, he regretted to say that he was not as prudent as he was honest.

Mr. BRENT said that he reciprocated the compliment.

Mr. PRESSTMAN resuming, remarked that he was not aware there could be so much difference of a personal nature between himself and colleague, (Mr. B.,) each understood the other well enough to know that though they might differ in the conclusions to which they had come upon the subject, there was no room for any unkind feeling.

And he would take the liberty to say to his colleague, that in the remarks of the gentleman from Baltimore county, he had seen nothing unwarranted by the freedom of debate. As the delegation from the city of Baltimore was divided, in opinion, and as the gentleman from Baltimore county, (Mr. H.,) was familiar with the social, political and business relations of their constituency, he regarded as well-timed. The appeal which had been made to them, not for an instance supposing that his colleague's motives had been called in question. In the issue made up upon the sentiment of the people of Baltimore city, in reference to compromise, my colleague had said he was more familiar with their views, *at this time*, than the gentleman from Baltimore county, (Mr. Howard;) but he forgets that in this avowal, he by implication denies to those of us, from the city, who approve the compromise, the same means of judging as he possesses.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city, explained. He wished to be distinctly understood. He had nothing to do with the *quo animo* of the gentleman from Baltimore county's attack upon him, but what he, (Mr. B.,) objected to, was the public arraignment of his vote here. That was a matter between himself and his constituents. He (Mr. Howard,) had said that he had known the people of Baltimore for twenty-five years, and he, (Mr. B.,) replied by saying he professed to understand the sentiments of the people of Baltimore, as well as any man living. If it was regarded as an implied censure upon his colleague, he could not help it, but he certainly did not mean it to be so.

Mr. PRESSTMAN did not for a moment suspect that his colleague had intentionally claimed a superior knowledge of the constituency which they, in part, mutually represented. He was justified, however, in saying that his opportunities of forming a correct judgment of the public sentiment of Baltimore, was equal to that of his colleague, (Mr. B.) Born and reared in that city, he could not be supposed to be ignorant of public sentiment. He had had the honor to have been through a period of more than fifteen years, an active participant in public affairs. The several situations of honor and trust bestowed upon him by his fellow-citizens, were some evidences, at