

least, that he was regarded as worthy of their confidence. He should never betray that trust willfully, though his judgment might err, his heart knew no pulsation that did not beat true to the people whom he represented. Something had been said by his colleague, (Mr. B.) as to the surrender of political power now enjoyed by the party of which we are both members. That patronage has been denominated by him the club of Hercules. Disclaiming in all sincerity, that the remarks he was about to make on that subject, are designed to apply to his colleague, who, he believed, to be incapable of acting from an unworthy motive. It is due to truth and candor to say, that as a member of the Reform party of Maryland, he blushed to acknowledge, that in despite of loud professions, there are those who are looking to the mess of pottage, and have abandoned the high ground of principle, and it is in a quarter where, for the honor of the cause of reform, he had hoped opposition would never have come; that the defeat of the Constitution is becoming a watchword. His colleague, (Mr. B.) had said that the compromise for which the Reformers of this body have voted, with astonishing unanimity, is a mere crumb! a crumb "falling from the rich man's table." Aye, sir, if it were not for the crumbs which are expected to fall from the Executive table, how few would be found to hazard the substantial concessions to popular rights which have been presented and rejected by this body. He would beg to call the attention of the Convention to the attitude of parties in the late Gubernatorial contest.

It is a well known fact, that both the distinguished candidates for the Gubernatorial chair, were the avowed friends of reform and retrenchment. That being the case, what was the ground assumed, everywhere openly, by the Democratic candidate? It was this. That although the candidate of the Whig party was himself a Reformer, yet he was sustained for the most part by those who were inimical to Conventional Reform. That looking to the probable majority of the anti-reformers in this Convention, if a gentleman was elected a Whig Governor, that the Convention might not be disposed to curtail his patronage. Mr. P. well recollected that in Monument Square, the Democratic candidate, in alluding to the Reform ticket nominated in the city of Baltimore, he put the question home to them by name, and asked, in the event of his election, they would dare, aye, dare sir, to violate their pledges to the great cause of Reform, by seeking to uphold Executive patronage. And, sir, that appeal swayed the minds and judgments of many who were politically opposed to the Democratic candidate, but who were sincere in their devotion to the Reform cause.

Mr. W. M. COST JOHNSON asked if he was to understand the gentleman, (Mr. Presstman,) as saying that Mr. Lowe and Mr. Clarke, in speeches they made in Baltimore county, besides expressing themselves in the same manner in private—pledged themselves to that doctrine, and also that every Whig and Democrat in Maryland vo-

ted for the two candidates in consequence of their having pledged themselves in open speeches that they were in favor of representation according to population.

Mr. PRESSTMAN continued. The question had been put to him, and he would endeavor to reply in the manner he was best able. He would not vouch for the accuracy of his statement, as he was not present at the Baltimore county meeting, at the laying down of the Gubernatorial platforms. But he had always been under the impression, that both gentlemen had expressed their individual opinions in favor of the principle of representation according to population, but he was not prepared to say that all who voted for each candidate, regarded that principle as involved in the Gubernatorial contest. Hence he had referred to the view taken by the Democratic candidate, before the people of Baltimore, as to the influence his election might exert upon the action of this body.

He would not be understood as declaring that many who will oppose the Constitution, (such as it now likely to be,) might not do so from the highest and most honorable motives; but that there is a taint somewhere and among some persons, styling themselves reformers, he did avow, and will forever maintain. He regretted that an allusion had been made by his colleague, [Mr. Brent,] to this Club of Hercules. How few of all the honest yeomanry and masses of the people in this State, have any lot or interest in the distribution of offices.

Mr. R. J. BRENT wished to know whether he understood the gentleman. If he did, it was that the Governor had said that he, [Mr. B.,] and others, would not dare refuse to strip him of the Executive patronage. Now, he, [Mr. B.,] did intend to vote to strip him of that patronage.

Mr. PRESSTMAN. If the gentleman had so declared himself, how could he suppose that he, [Mr. P.] meant to impute otherwise.

Mr. BRENT. Your remarks, sir, were equivocal, although I know you did not mean to include me.

Mr. PRESSTMAN proceeded. He wished to be understood as ready at all times to make this issue before the people of Baltimore. That while they might desire representation according to population, there had never been an official document emanating from any party in this State, in or out of Baltimore, demanding that principle should be carried out as a *sine qua non* in the adoption of a Constitution.

It is true, that the organ of the Democratic reform party of Baltimore, (the Republican and Argus,) claims this to be the sentiment of the people of Baltimore; as to the correctness of that position, and of the course of that paper, he should have something to say hereafter. Why, sir, if such pretensions had been avowed by any party, this Convention never would have been called together. The journal of the House of Delegates is pregnant with proof that those who passed the act establishing the basis of represen-