

the vital interests of the country must necessarily rise or fall with the triumph or defeat of any party. He had lived long enough to consider all party triumphs secondary objects. And, although he had not lived, by many years, so long as the gentleman in his eye, (Mr. Dorsey,) he thought if any man had served too long an apprenticeship to mere party shackles, he [Mr. T.] had done it. But, as he had seen the party with which he was identified triumph, and alternately be defeated, and had seen our beloved country in either event moving steadily onward in its career of glory and power, he was satisfied that the great interests of the country were not unavoidably dependent on the fate of any political combination that had yet been formed. He may have thought otherwise once, and his party zeal was in proportion to the strength of that conviction. More than that, he had lived long enough to know that many of our anticipations about the effects of party struggles were never realized. He had never stood in the front ranks, but he had been near enough to the front to have a view of the whole field after a party victory. And he was ready to admit that such events, in nine cases out of ten, sent into retirement a large proportion of public functionaries whose continuance in office was required by the public interests, and brought into station others who, for the public good, ought to have continued in retirement.

He would assure the gentleman (and he hoped that he would believe him) that his political partialities—his political principles, were unchanged; they might be eternal as his own being—but they could not influence him to move in this Convention with a view to give undue advantages to any party. He had supposed that the very circumstances under which he came to this Convention would have sheltered him from the remotest suspicion that he had any such objects in view. He had declined a party nomination, because he did not wish to come into a body like under what might be considered pledges to promote purely party purposes. He said this without meaning to say that his position was one of more personal independence than that of any other member. It was well known in the county from which he came, that he had no reason of a personal character to separate from old party friends. His relations to them were, and had always been, kind. He had been influenced by considerations of public usefulness altogether. But, allow him to say, he was amused that a gentleman of so high intelligence as the Representative of the county of Anne Arundel was, could suppose that there was to be found in a proposition of this kind any thing of a personal or of a party character. What had he [Mr. T.] done? Had he not separated the county in which the gentleman resided from the connection in which it was placed under the old constitution?

The county in which the gentleman resides constitutes, with other counties and the city of Baltimore, under the old Constitution, a Gubernatorial district. This union with Baltimore the gentleman now proposes to dissolve, by establishing a district to be formed of Baltimore city with Baltimore and Harford counties. The gentleman

was very willing to get rid of all connection with Baltimore by attaching that city to other counties. He [Mr. T.] desired to do justice to Baltimore and to all the counties by making the city a district of itself; and did not see how in so doing he could have justly imputed to him mere party purposes. When he had proposed to separate—to draw lines of demarcation, and require the selecting of the candidates from the same district, he had not proposed to have the votes of that district alone cast at the election. The candidates are to reside in a particular district, but the people of the whole State are to vote. No matter where you may locate your candidates when any party machinery is to be brought to bear on the nomination, and any convention to be got up for the purposes of the election, is it not to be constituted precisely in the same mode as if Baltimore was a separate district? Would there not be the same nominating conventions—the same apportionments of delegates to such conventions, whether Baltimore was or was not connected with the counties? Now when the venerable gentleman reflected that he [Mr. T.] had a right to expect that he would admit that no mere party purposes could be aimed at in the formation of districts within which the candidates for the office of Governor were required to reside.

Mr. SOLLERS said—In my humble judgment, after the eloquent speech of the gentleman who has just taken his seat, and from the peculiar feelings produced by it, we are unfit to listen to any thing more at present; I therefore move that we now adjourn.

The question was taken and decided in the affirmative.

So the Convention adjourned until to-morrow at ten o'clock.

THURSDAY, April 3, 1851.

The Convention met at ten o'clock.

Prayer was made by the Rev. Mr. Griffith.

The Journal of yesterday was read.

The President laid before the Convention the following communication from the Hon. Louis McLane:

To the Hon. JOHN G. CHAPMAN,

*President of the Convention:*

SIR: In consequence of the state of my health, which absolutely requires relaxation from my constant attendance upon the Convention, I have the honor to ask that leave of absence for two weeks may be granted to me?

I am, sir, with great respect,

LOUIS McLANE.

April 2, 1851.

which was read.

On the question being put,

“Will the Convention grant the leave of absence asked?” it was

Determined in the affirmative.

Mr. BISEN presented a petition of 45 citizens of Haver's District, in Frederick county, asking that a clause be inserted in the constitution, restricting the sale of intoxicating liquors, ex-