

for who, when indulging in the wildest vagaries of the most exuberant fancy, stretching o'er land and sea, ever imagined that one-half of the chimeras that have been mooted here would have been submitted for the calm deliberation of this most potent, grave, and reverend Convention?

Sir, theories have been promulgated and doctrines announced, whose tendency, if carried into practical operation, would necessarily be to upset all the relations of life, lead to the overthrow of all law and order, and plunge us into the unfathomable abyss of anarchy and confusion.

Exhaustless of reflection and fruitful of remark, as from its gravity and importance it unquestionably is, I will not dwell upon the *theme*.

The problem will soon be solved, whether the sober-minded and reflecting yeomanry of the land will take the reins into their own hands, or remain in false security, insensible to the dangers that impend over themselves and their posterity from the machinations of agitators and political adventurers. I have an abiding confidence, when exercising the sound intelligence for which they stand so proudly pre-eminent, that rising in the majesty of their strength, they will vindicate their own capacity for self-government, and rescue the fair fabric transmitted to them by the superhuman exertions of their patriot sires from the impious touch of those who would subvert it.

Methinks I see the venerable form of the illustrious dead [pointing to the surrender of Cornwallis to Gen. Washington after the battle of Yorktown] appealing to the toil, the sacrifices, the streams of blood that flowed in eddy currents through a seven years' war consecrated to liberty, by their remembrance invoking its perpetuity.

And now, sir, a word to our brethren of the North. Triumph not, I pray you, too much in the boasted superiority of your numbers.

Remember, the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. A shepherd youth with the simple weapon of a sling and stone prostrated the mighty leader of the Philistines. Tax not our patience above endurance. Lay some restraint upon this grasping wish for power, ere you alienate the affections of some of your most true and loyal citizens. There is a point beyond which forbearance ceases to be a virtue. Be cautious how you attempt to pass that boundary, or a state of things may ensue which you yourselves may rue. And I would say to my friends of the Southern counties, there is a Providence that shapes our ends—rough hew them how we may. Paired in honesty, and sustained by truth, fight on—fight ever. A brave and an ingenuous heart pursues the right, and pauses not to speculate upon the chances of success. Under the broad shield of reason and of justice, you will deserve, if you fail, to conquer.

Whatever others may do, it was not my purpose to embark with you upon the smooth surface of a summer sea—

Nor to forsake the ship, and make the shore, When the winds whistle, and the tempests roar.

And if, regardless of the history of the glorious past, if unmindful of that beneficent legislation by whose fostering care they have grown so great, we are at last to be overwhelmed, (as has been indicated,) by the hosts of the North pouring down as an avalanche, threatening to sweep us, as with the besom of destruction, from the face of the earth, I trust in heaven, with our banners unfurled, our colors floating in the breeze, we shall be found, like the gallant little band at the pass of Thermopylæ, standing to our arms to the latest hour of our dissolution.

Mr. GRASON said he had objections to the proposition of the gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Thomas.) The Committee on the Executive Department almost unanimously concurred in the opinion that the district system should be maintained. His friend from Charles, (Mr. Jenifer,) was the only member of the committee who preferred taking the Governor from the State at large. That had been his own opinion, when the State was divided into districts in 1836, because he thought it easier to select a suitable person from the whole State than from a particular district. But, after reflecting upon the subject, that the selection of candidates from the same section of the State, which must be done under the district system, would prevent the agitation of certain questions which might disturb the friendly relations that now exist between the Northern and Southern counties. It was important for another reason, to take the Governor alternately from different sections of the State. Under the old system, he was selected alternately from the two shores, and generally from the middle counties of each; and the executive patronage was more likely to follow in the same direction. The effect of the present arrangement, is to secure a more general distribution of appointments among the people of the State, and to draw the attention of the Government to their various interests and pursuits. He would now state his objections to a division of the State into four executive districts.

The constitution originally secured to the Eastern Shore certain rights, which had been gradually taken away; and the amended constitution of 1836 contained no provision for the benefit of that section of the State, except that of making it a separate district, from which the Governor was to be chosen every third term. It was now proposed to divide the State into four districts, and still further to restrict the local advantages conferred in 1836. Many persons were under the impression that the Eastern Shore was very limited in extent, but they would find by consulting the map, that it forms one-third of the territory of the State. As to himself, personally, he cared very little whether it were entitled to the Governor every third or every fourth term; but he was satisfied that the people of the Eastern Shore would consider any further attempt to reduce their relative influence as rather ungenerous on the part of the Western Shore counties.

He had now a remark to make to the gentleman from Kent, who seldom rose in the Convention without making some offensive allusions to