

I now repeat, as I then said, bitter as is the draught—much as I deprecate the element of “federal numbers,” yet I regarded it as less offensive than the more nauseous dose of the gentleman from Queen Anne’s. True, it came from the other Shore, came from one of the large counties, came not from one of the enumerated slave counties, came from a source to which we had no claim to look for favor or affection on this particular subject; but with all this unpromising prestige, it affected our interests less injuriously than the boon proffered to us by our own familiar friend; less fatal to the political power and influence of the Eastern Shore, than the destiny imposed upon us by the bill which has passed, and which has for its author a delegate from our side of the Chesapeake Bay.

But, sir, [said Mr. C.] why expend more words, or waste time in vindicating myself from the imputation of neglecting the interests of the Eastern Shore? Have I not been twitted and jeered, on every occasion, for an undue pertinacity in advocating its peculiar interests? My only apology for the trespass I have committed is, that I desire to have my course so announced, that it may be understood elsewhere as it is known here.

Mr. C. said he could not allow to pass unnoticed a remark of the gentleman, particularly as he had heard from other gentlemen something of the same character. The gentleman had said, “the gentleman from Kent never rises without by direct charge or insinuation impeaching the motives of others.” This remark was gravely made, and involves a very unkind imputation, and [said Mr. C.] I must be permitted to say, I think one not merited by any thing that has occurred on this floor. My first answer to it is, that the gentleman and myself differ as to the fact, both as to my invariable practice, for which I refer to the knowledge and observation of members, as also as to the particular instance which immediately gave occasion to his remark. The gentleman from Frederick (Mr. Thomas) had said “he would strike out the county of Harford from the district, called the Eastern Shore district, if the Eastern Shore desired it.” It put his action upon the wish of our Shore; it was to be governed by these wishes. Of course it appeared proper those wishes should be expressed. The only mode of communicating knowledge of the fact upon which the action of the gentleman was to depend, was by an expression from members here. It was regarded by me, as I said, as a quasi question—not in form of words, but in substance. In the few remarks made by me in answer to this question, I said the gentlemen from the Eastern Shore had differed so widely on many and important questions, that I could not venture to speak for more than a limited portion of it. But, sir, I did distinctly and directly state, and did so with sincerity, that gentlemen from the Eastern Shore who had pursued a course different from my own, were doubtless actuated by motives as pure and patriotic as our own. I am aware, that different gentlemen have imputed to me a caustic tone, and a sharpness in debate here, until I fear it will beget an opinion that I have really indulged in this way quite too far. Now, sir, I challenge that gentle-

man, (Mr. Grason,) or any one else, to lay his finger upon a solitary instance in which I have cast the first stone, in any one of these rencontres to which these remarks allude. I have, on various occasions, had cause to defend myself, and have endeavored to make the best of my way out of the difficulties into which opposing speakers have used able efforts to place me. Surely there is no censure due for that. Gentlemen choose to promote me in their fancy, to a prominent position, which I neither occupy in fact, or desire to occupy, and then attack me as the occupant. May I not repel such assaults? I do, sir, seriously and truly assert that I have not intentionally indulged in any caustic expression, unless provoked by an attack, though not always quite so plain, direct and serious a charge as that acknowledged now to be made by the gentleman from Queen Anne’s; and in no instance have I desired to impute to any gentleman here, an impure motive, or to inflict a permanent wound upon his feelings.

So far as regards personal considerations. And now, [said Mr. C.] as to political motives and considerations.

Gentlemen rise here and tell us they divest themselves of political feeling, that they do not act or vote under the influence of party. Now, sir, I am willing to suppose these gentlemen really entertain the opinion they express, that they are quite insensible of the influence of party. But, sir, the heart of man is deceitful above all things, and there is no one more frequently the victim of this deception than its owner. Why, what do we see here, before our eyes, day after day, vote after vote—all pursuing the same current—all tending to the same point? A man must be blind, perfectly, absolutely blind, to every sort of observation, to every species of fair deduction, if what we witness here could not convince him that political influences operate. Take the case on which we voted yesterday, the day for the election of Governor. The question was made, whether the election should be on the same day when the election of President of the United States was held, or on a different day. It was asserted and not denied, nor could it be, that a larger number of votes were given at the Presidential election, and that it would save the time and expense of a second election to have both on the same day. But yet the same votes which had in other similar cases governed this body, were united in favor of a separate election. Did any one doubt that this result was due to the fact, which it seems experience has proved, that while in every instance, the electoral or Presidential vote of the State has gone one way, the election for Governor has almost uniformly, indeed, with but one exception, gone the other way. Could any one doubt? I will only say, sir, if such a man can be found, his credulity would entitle him to a premium, whether he were exhibited at a country cattle show or at the “world’s fair.” Do I by this impute impure motive? No, sir; as far from it as any man on this floor. But I would be equally unwilling to use disguise or affect a belief which I do not entertain. I should be uncandid and disingenuous if I were to attempt to disguise my belief, that the votes of Eastern Shore members