

Now, sir, with regard to this larger and unfortunate division which has been introduced here this morning, arraying shore against shore, we have been told in the outset of this Convention, that the inhabitants of the Eastern Shore would protect themselves against dangers which they supposed might accrue from the superior political influence and power of the Western Shore. But, like many old antiquated prejudices and doctrines which ought to have passed away by this time, there is now no shore arrayed against any other shore. That has become extinct. It must have been so in the ordinary course of things. Why, sir, at the time of which the gentleman speaks, the intercourse between these two shores was so remote, so uncertain, as to amount to an actual barrier between the people who inhabit them. Occasionally a little packet boat would go across the bay; and still more seldom, one inhabitant would pass over to visit the other shore. When I had the pleasure of visiting the Eastern Shore in my early days, the only mode of access was to mount on horseback, let a servant bring a trunk or portmanteau behind, in the old-fashioned way, and come to the city of Annapolis, and here pass over in a packet boat to the Eastern Shore. Thus I passed over and visited the lower part of the Eastern Shore and Somerset county, of which the gentleman has spoken. But how is it now? The wide Atlantic has surrendered up distance to the inventive genius of man, which has placed us in a near propinquity to the shores of Europe. That same powerful genius has almost annihilated the barrier between the Western and the Eastern Shores, and with that annihilation ought to have perished all that ancient jealousy. The power of steam has placed the two shores in a greater degree of contiguity to the main centre of communication—I mean the city of Baltimore—than the very counties on the Western Shore have to each other. The Eastern against the Western Shore? How can it be? Do the people of Washington and Frederick counties have any sympathy with the people of Charles and St. Mary's counties, except in the way of a general friendship and good-feeling? Do they ever exchange commodities or communications with each other? Not at all. How, then, can it be supposed that they possess a common feeling as the Western Shore, which would induce them to oppress their brethren of the Eastern Shore?

Upon that Eastern Shore—and I mention it only as an instance of the state of general feeling, and not as having any importance in itself—I have placed my only son, where he is now pursuing his education. Other gentlemen have done the same thing in the neighborhood in which I live. We go over to the Eastern Shore with as much freedom and frequency of communication as to any part of the Western Shore whatever. We have the same pride in the ancient history of the Eastern Shore as they have themselves. We look to their distinguished men of past days, and look upon it at the present day, with as much satisfaction as they do. The State

of Maryland is not like the two wings without the body of the bird. The two wings are mere auxiliaries, with which the State of Maryland, as a whole, speeds her flight to her high destinies. I hope that those gentlemen who have thus appealed to the prejudices of the Eastern Shore, will allow me to say that we can admire their unbounded hospitality, their almost unlimited access to every thing which can contribute to the physical enjoyment and the intellectual endowment of man; and we can cherish the memory of their distinguished persons with as much zeal as they do themselves. There is no sentiment any where upon the Western Shore which would induce any inhabitant of it to strip them of their rights.

It may be true that the Eastern Shore, if gentlemen will insist upon running that dividing line, may have lost some of her political preponderance. But does that justify the charge that the Western Shore has stripped her of her rights? It is realizing the old fable of the two knights viewing from opposite positions the shield which was golden upon one side and silver upon the other. We look upon the same fact that has occurred here, but from different positions; and consequently our interpretations are wholly diverse. With regard to stripping the Eastern Shore of its rights, let me say that injustice may be done by time as well as by any thing else. If the constitution suited us years and generations ago, in the progress of things that constitution may become as unjust and as illiberal as if it had originally been made unjust and illiberal. When the Chinese woman continues to wear the shoe that covered her foot in infancy, is it the less a torture that her foot has grown while there was no expansibility in the material surrounding it? So has it been with us. The State has grown. Different sections of it have enlarged, while the constitution is inflexible. The western counties have grown. The city of Baltimore has grown. The Eastern Shore, unfortunately, has remained comparatively in the same condition in which it was. Is there to be no flexibility in our government to adapt itself to the growth and changes of mankind?

We find in other countries, in the expansion of liberal opinions, and even in the monarchical government of England, that popular opinion forces its way through, like one of those strata of earlier days, that by internal pressure has forced its way through the granite rock, and appeared upon the earth's surface. The Parliament of England was compelled, in their reform bill, to yield to the changed circumstances of the times. A representation originally equal had become unequal. Old boroughs had lost all reasonable claims to representation, and new cities like Manchester and Glasgow had grown up. Hence it was that even in that country, where there was no opportunity to appeal to the people for their decision, as there has been here, but where the Parliament possessed the sole power, even then the overwhelming force of popular opinion, sustained by justice, was so great that the Parliament