

from Harford as his lecturer, and his lecture was therefore, wholly gratuitous. No member on this floor should impugn his motives. When they talked about Buncombe, he would go to some other portions of the State—to Harford. He came here fearlessly, and independently to do his duty. If in so doing, he should tread upon the toes of every gentleman upon this floor—ah! even the gentleman from Harford—he could not help it.

He, (Mr. H.) meant fearlessly to move here in whatever he might believe to be his public duty. In this he called upon the members of the Convention to show their self-sacrificing spirit. When they spoke of this proceeding as being 'barefaced,' he thought that belonged to another quarter.

He thought the gentleman who had read him this lecture had moved in matters here, quite as barefaced as his proposition. He, (Mr. H.) was not to be driven from his position by denunciations of that sort, when he believed he was performing his duty. He believed that the passage of a proposition like his, was a duty the Convention owed itself and a duty which it owed to the State of Maryland. He asked if they were here making place for themselves, or had they come to this Convention, *honestly, faithfully* to serve the people of the State of Maryland.

Mr. McHENRY declared that he had meant to cast no imputation upon the motives of either the gentleman from Dorchester or the gentleman from Anne Arundel. He had referred exclusively to the character of the proposition as apparent on its face.

Mr. RANDALL said that the proposition, whatever of weal or of woe there might be in it, originated with himself. It did not originate in this Convention. When first he had an opportunity of appearing before the people, (and he believed the gentleman from Carroll was present) having heard much said of candidates seeking seats in this Convention, for the purpose of vacating offices and obtaining places, he wished to meet that objection promptly, and nip it in the bud. He therefore stated to the people, that if they should honor him with a seat in the Convention, he would endeavor to prevent this charge being alleged against any member of that Convention, and that he would do it for the sake of the honor and dignity of the members themselves. It was a pledge which he then made, stating that as for himself, he should accept no office under this Constitution within that limitation. He hoped his future life would carry it out. He had proposed this disqualification for a limited period of time, because by its expiration he thought every inducement supposed to be influential in this respect upon members would cease. For this reason, he would say to the gentleman from Calvert, (Mr. Sollers) that the adoption of this amendment, would be quite sufficient to remove the suspicion of an improper motive. No man in this life could reasonably be expected to be influenced now in his action on a Constitution by any probable personal emolument, he might possibly desire five years hence from its formation, dis-

qualify him for five years, and that would effectually remove all suspicion of undue influence—that was his motive. He introduced the proposition early in the session, and had it referred to a committee of which he believed the gentleman from Charles, (Mr. Jenfer.) was the chairman—the omnibus committee as it had been ludicrously termed—but nothing was done in the matter.

He had declared that he intended from his place, to inquire of the committee if they intended to report upon the subject? And if they did not, to give notice that on a particular day he would call up the subject before the Convention—but his friend from Dorchester, [Mr. Hicks,] had anticipated him. So much then, for his motive. He believed every gentleman in the Convention, desired to be exempt from the suspicion of improper motives in his action here, and he did hope this would be manifested by adopting this proposition; he did hope that they would thus show their disinterestedness. It would give a sanction to the Constitution they were forming, which no other principle it could contain, could possibly confer upon it. Let the people of the State be fully impressed with the conviction that this Convention assembled here with no other view than the promotion of the best interests of the people, and that every modification of the Constitution was designed without party or personal views for the sole advancement of the public good, and in their estimation it would confer upon the Constitution a character that it would not otherwise possess.

It had been said that this proposition would be dishonorable to themselves. Their fathers did not think so when they framed similar provisions in our Constitution of 1776. They provided that the Governor should take no bribe, and how he should be punished when he should violate such provision. They imposed restrictions, prohibiting members of the Legislature from accepting offices, &c. This Convention was not superhuman; it claimed no such prerogative here. In this present Constitution, similar restrictions had already been imposed where improper influences might exist. He would say, and every gentleman would bear him out in the assertion, that there was no Constitution in the United States, which had not some such restrictions, upon the officers of its government, founded upon the apprehension of danger where any temptation to do wrong existed.

In regard to the objection that we would, by adopting this proposition, be imposing restrictions on the rights of the people to elect whom they pleased—he admitted this was such a restriction. The people of every government were restricted by their constitutions, or rather they thereby restricted themselves in the exercise of their natural rights. Their present Constitution forbade the people to elect the same individual sheriff for six years. They had, also, since 1836, forbidden the people to elect a Governor, except from particular districts. A Constitution, from beginning to end, was but restrictions upon rights. Government itself was a restriction upon natural rights for the public good. In speaking, there-