

fore of restricting the people's rights, we use language which is not applicable to a Convention called by the people to form a Constitution for them, whereby they may impose restrictions upon themselves in some respects, in order that they may enjoy a greater amount of liberty and happiness in other respects.

Let this proposition become a part of the Constitution, and he ventured to say that there would not be an article in the Constitution less obnoxious—nay, more acceptable—to the people.

Something had been said of the motives of members who advocated this proposition—that popularity was their object. It was capital for "Buncombe." Now this was a strange motive which destroys itself! We seek popularity by depriving the people of power! We seek popularity by denying to the people the power of gratifying the only object of such popularity! Let those who ascribe such motives to others, reconsider that charge and prepare themselves for their defence from such a charge, if thrown back upon themselves. He did not believe that he had ever indicated any especial desire for public life. This and a former trust conferred upon him by the people, are all he ever held. They were more than he desired or deserved. He did not desire public life, but if he did, he would not expect any action of his in this Convention could promote that object. He who entered this Convention in order to gain popularity, had, to use the common phrase, "gotten into the wrong box." No man who performed his duty here to the State should not expect to gain popularity thereby. He would have a record ever printed against him of much that many would condemn and many will pervert. He did not care what course a member took, all would not be satisfied. Those whose views he promoted, if so fortunate as to have any such constituents, consider him as merely escaping censure, whereas political opponents and those who have been disappointed by his course, would be trumpet-tongued against him whenever he should again appear before the people. He who came here to obtain popularity had mistaken the place where it was to be procured.

He who was guided solely by his duty, as by the sun's light shining before him, would always have that popularity, which is the reward of honest endeavors, close at his heels as his shadow cast by that sun. But he who leaves his duty behind him, as the light of that same sun, in pursuit of popularity would have this shadow to chase until his days were ended.

For himself he desired no other popularity than that of having conscientiously discharged his humble duty here.

Mr. JENIFER said that the committee of which he was Chairman, to which the gentleman had alluded, always paid due respect to every matter referred to it. There was no member of that committee who did not look upon the proposition of the gentleman precisely as he did—there was no member who did not think it was intended for Buncombe.

Mr. J. said, articles had been introduced into

the new Constitution, and very properly passed, making it penal for certain crimes and misdemeanors, the punishment for which was disfranchisement, not only from office but from the privilege of voting. And now it is proposed to place a man who came here as a member to the Convention, precisely in the same position as if he had committed a crime. He would ask gentlemen, the advocates of this proposition, if their consciences bore them witness that they had not done their duty, and if they would be afraid to go home and place themselves before their constituents? If it should appear that any member had voted for his own aggrandisement, or to subserve improper purposes, the people, who are always on the alert to detect the misdeeds of their representatives, would sufficiently punish him by not trusting him hereafter.

As for himself, he would have no office under the Constitution unless by the free will of the people, and so far as he was concerned, Mr. J. said, he felt, in the discharge of the duties devolved on him, that his conscience was unchecked. He was willing to abide their decision, but he would not disfranchise other gentlemen, because he might not have done all that may have been desired.

Mr. SOLLERS confessed that he offered his amendment for the purpose of killing the original amendment. If his amendment should be adopted, he intended to vote against the whole thing. His friend from Anne Arundel, [Mr. Randall.] had said that this was no place to seek popularity. He, [Mr. S.] agreed with him. But his friend must reflect, that when he said he did not seek office, the necessary inference was, that there were others seeking offices.

Mr. RANDALL explained that it was not him who made the charge. He had said that no man could get popularity by coming here.

Mr. Sollers said that he could lay his hand upon heart and say, that in all his votes he had two objects in view—one to represent faithfully his constituents—the other, to stop, by every possible means in his power, this wild avalanche of progressive democracy. He would appeal to members if he had given any votes to please the whole State, he had simply desired to please his own people. When his friend spoke of persons seeking popularity, he should reflect that the impression would go abroad that he, himself, was doing this very thing; for of all the propositions which had been introduced here, he would declare that he conceived the gentleman's proposition looked more like seeking popularity than any other. If the gentleman chose to say that he would not accept any office created by the Convention, be it so.—It might be, in his estimation, the very highest notion of patriotism. As for himself, he did not choose to say so. He was always ready and willing, and had been ever, to serve his people. He said it fearlessly—he could not inflict upon them a greater injury than to say that they should not have the right to elect their officer. They had four representatives here, (three of them eminent) who had served their country in various capacities—should he disfran-