

fession—how humiliating! And then, if this was not done, "all the young men would grow up Locofocos"

Well, the writer should have credit for his candor in expressing his own views, but I do not believe, Mr. President, that the young Whigs of Baltimore are all justly liable to the imputations of this modern political teacher. I think I know them better. But if it be true of the young Whigs of Baltimore, the same cause does not produce the same effect upon the young Democrats in the strong Whig counties, where with no prospect of political honors or advancement to encourage them, they are still found at their posts, doing battle for principles, without the hope of fee or reward, save that of having done their duty to the State and the nation. If the true secret for districting the city of Baltimore lies in reasons no more defensible than these, to my judgment, it is one of the grossest attempts at the mere security of the "spoils of office," over every acknowledged sentiment of political justice that ever disgraced the most besotted faction that ruled its brief hour by the "cohesive power of plunder." I do not allege these to be the motives that prompt the course of gentlemen on this floor. I have no such intention. I speak only of a singular coincidence made manifest by *the* words and *inside* actions. That's all I mean. The pressure may not be so intense as I suppose it, from the language of the quotation. But it is intended to be felt, and Baltimore city to become the atoning sacrifice to the rapacity of spoil hunters. If that is the object, I shall not be found among those to whom it can be said,

You help to put your masters on your backs—
They like their seats—they ride you, sweat you,
curb you,
And yet with all your metal, you cannot throw
them off!

Sir, with my consent, *they never shall get on.* The city which I have the honor in part to represent here, shall not become a mere thing to be trafficked about, as men would of sheep in the shambles, by any vote of mine; and I trust by no majority vote of this Convention.

But we are told that the right of *minorities* must be protected. How protected? As they are shown to be by the past legislative history of this State, in which minorities, through our present unequal system of representation have swayed the destinies of the State from time immemorial? How they have held the legislative power and the purse strings of the State within their own hands, and bid defiance to the representatives of a majority of the people to dispossess them of the power—turned a deaf ear to the appeals of two-thirds of the people, when, time after time, asking a redress of political grievances? Are these the protections they desire to perpetuate? If so, away with them. It has not passed from the memory of all yet, how by concert of action between the two houses, the elec-

tion of State agents was made and now depends on a concurrent vote of the General Assembly; one party thereby securing to itself the immense power and patronage of the internal improvement companies over which the State has control. Yes, sir, a great State work disbursing an immense patronage, has by this means become a great party machine. Are these the minority rights sought to be further protected? With the Senate, constituted as it now is, the minority may keep this power to some extent perpetually. And certainly so if the gentleman from Charles, (Mr. Merrick,) is gifted with the true spirit of prophecy when he says we shall never see the day in Maryland when representation according to population will be the rule of apportionment. Sir, he may be a better prophet than I, who make no pretensions to the art of divination, but if I live so long, I shall be wonderfully surprised and disappointed not to find this fundamental principle of republican government in successful operation in less than twenty years. I verily believe that this great heritage of the freemen will be then, if not sooner, accorded to him as a right too long and arbitrarily withheld.

Mr. President, I came to this Convention an ardent Reformer. I have endeavored in my votes to prove my sincerity, and if I have failed in any particular it is not attributable to a want of zeal in the promotion of sound and judicious reforms in the organic law of the State, but to an error arising solely in judgment. I am now puzzled to discover what the division of the city of Baltimore into ten delegate districts has to do with the subject of Reform, unless you include the whole State. Then there might be "a loop whereon to hang a doubt" of its impropriety, if we discard the important consideration of the lateness of the session, and the rapid approach of the final adjournment which we have, I think, irrevocably set apart. Members will not remain to accomplish so herculean a labor as districting, with proper lines and limits, the entire State. But the Convention is not willing to district the counties, and so nothing seems to be left as an alternative, but the segregating the city of Baltimore from the rest of the State, and to cut her into so many little political communities, by which operation the party politics will be nearly equally divided. This is the question, and I am prepared to vote negatively upon it so long as that vote may be required to put it to rest forever in the tomb of partizan experiments. Baltimore is devoted to her party attachments. You cannot alienate her from that good old republican track she has so long and so successfully pursued. She clings to her long cherished ties with almost fraternal fondness.

You may destroy her unity—blot out her metes and bounds—divide and subdivide her, and parcel her out to accommodate new-born schemes or cunningly devised theories, yet in the language of the poet—

Like the vase in which roses have long been distilled—