

and from this it follows that with regard to the matter in question the whole community consists but of two classes - the one absolutely eligible the other absolutely ineligible -

To try then the operation of our State regulations upon the eligibility of an individual, let it be asked was Mr Pinkney eligible before this law was made? - The answer is, that being possessed of the three points of description laid down by the Constitution, he was eligible, again, suppose our State law to be in force - Is Mr Pinkney still eligible or not - I answer without fear of contradiction that he is - But let us examine Mr Pinkney's language - "That District Residence is a qualification is too evident (says Mr P) to be contested, because it certainly affects eligibility" -

I have already shown that there are with respect to eligibility, but two classes of men - the one possessed of it - The other without it - I believe I can as safely advance that there must be those two classes: or if the moral necessity of such a division may be disputed, they exist at least in fact in every country where representation obtains - Indeed the idea of qualification must be attended by that of its opposite, Disqualification - The one would (in this sense) be an useless term without the other - what then does Mr Pinkney mean when he gives the name of a qualification to what every man in the State is possessed of To wit - "District Residence"? Qualification has hitherto been a distinction but here is a qualification of a new kind - No age condition or even sex is excluded from it; for every being in the State resides in some district of it, and has therefore District Residence -

But supposing these terms to form some intelligible quality, it is already proved that Eligibility is not destroyed or impaired by it - I will go further and deny that it is in the smallest degree affected by it - It is not the Right but the means or chance of converting the right into Possession that is affected by the Partition of the State into Districts -

Although my opinion depends entirely on the truth of this distinction, I shall be at no trouble to illustrate it - If it should be thought injurious that even this chance of election should be changed by the State modification - I answer that if the manner of election is unfavorable to the views of one candidate, another is in an equal degree benefited by it -