

attempted to restrict the freedom of speech. While men who are guilty of treason, or who willfully violate laws for the safety of the State or Nation, justly forfeit the elective franchise, it would not be just or wise, or even safe, to visit with the same penalty, those whose offences amount to no more than an indiscreet, intemperate, and even a passionate use of the tongue. Nor is it necessary. The safety & peace of the Country does not require it. Rebellious sentiments no longer find willing auditors. The labors of Secession prators are no longer dangerous. They have gone into obscurity, to emerge no more, unless dragged to light by sympathy for unnecessary punishment. The War is over; the public mind appropriating its storm lessons, and recognizing in them the fact that the great issues submitted for trial to the dread arbitrament of battle, are finally decided, acquiesces in the result, and is disposed to unite in giving peace to the Country. The necessity for unusual and extraordinary restraints on the privileges of the Citizens, if ever necessary, has passed away, and the enforcement of such now, would be only the gratification of vengeance unbecoming the dignity of a magnanimous people.

For these important appointments the best men should be selected. A large discretion is necessarily committed to them, and every thing depends on their wisdom, moderation and impartiality, and above all on their freedom from partisan prejudice. If the latter should be supposed to control their action, in any important degree, the certain effect will be to overthrow the party to which they belong, and probably to disturb the order and quiet of the State. You will be pressed by party organizations to appointments as party rewards. This would be a most dangerous experiment. Such men for the most part are destitute of every qualification needful for this important trust. Public safety, your own fame, and justice to individuals, demand of you the greatest circumspection. If such counsels are followed the ballot box will be closed to all whose ideas of governmental policy do not happen to accord with their own. Good men can be found for these places; of course they are not known to you; but your knowledge of the People of the State will enable you to call to your aid wise and prudent Counsellors, who will indicate persons to whom it is fit that this important duty may be delegated.

Pardons, my dear sir, this unsought advice. It is kindly meant, and is only ventured because I see here and elsewhere movements beginning and in progress, which if followed by you, may lead to very unhappy consequences.

With very great respect
I am Yours &c

J. W. Grisfield

Hon. J. W. Bradford

Governor of Maryland.