

was in derogation of the rights of the free white laboring citizens of the State. Upon the first point, it will be sufficient to say, that the Act of 1837, chapter 43, in fixing a specific salary for the Inspectors of Tobacco, and Resolution No. 68, of 1847, in providing, "that no Inspector or Inspectors shall be allowed or receive any larger sum for labor or other necessaries furnished, than he or they have actually paid for the same,"—strongly exclude the presumption that any perquisites, whether arising out of the employment of labor or otherwise, could be legally appropriated by the Inspectors. Yet, it is notorious that many of the Inspectors were in the habit of making large and unusual profits by the employment of their own, or hired slaves, in the work of the Warehouses. Upon the second point, I may be satisfied in calling your attention to the one fact, that the New Constitution has carefully obliterated the last vestige of the system of perquisites; which, in itself, conclusively shows that the people, have, at length, perceived the corrupting influence of this mode of remunerating public officers. And finally, I could not but regard the exclusion, from the public employment, of the free white laboring citizens of the State, as an unjustifiable invasion of their rights. Although but few of them can, under any circumstances, derive practical benefit, from the change which has been effected; still, all are equally interested in the establishment of the principle. Entertaining these views, and having been made fully aware of the difficulties, which, before that time, had defeated various attempts to introduce this policy, I resolved not to appoint any Inspector, who would not energetically co-operate with me, to accomplish the desired reform. When this determination became known, some feeling was excited. It was inconsiderately alleged, by some holding high positions, that it would provoke a dangerous agitation. Whereas, it was, amongst other reasons, precisely to anticipate and prevent such a result, that I deemed it advisable to adopt this measure. It was to show to the great community of laboring men, that the State understood and conceded their rights; whilst, at the same time, she protected the Institution of Slavery, in which they, for the most part, have no interest of ownership. No one will question the entire soundness of the great mass of the laboring people of Maryland, upon every Southern issue. They uphold the domestic institution of the South, because it is a part of their Constitution, recognized by their laws, and woven into the frame-work of their society. Their support is based upon principle; and, I did not wish to see it answered by a discrimination derogatory to the dignity of their labor, under the sanction of the constituted authorities of the State. A question was raised as to my right to annex such a condition to the appointment of the Inspectors. If there is any force in precedent, this question is easily disposed of. No test