

by the Constitution of the United States. What says that constitution? In article 1, section 2d, clause first, will be found these words: "And the electors (voters) in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors (voters) for the most numerous branch of the State Legislature." Some of those new States in fixing the qualifications of their voters, would not and did not so fix them, as to require naturalization or citizenship as a qualification of the voter, but gave this right to all *inhabitants* who had resided for some specified time, six or twelve months, within the State, District or Territory. Why they did this may be conjectured, but is not certainly known here. The sympathy and fellow feeling naturally existing among all orderly and industrious inhabitants of a new country may and probably was a strong reason. Contrivances of politicians, and a desire to acquire influence and exercise greater weight in the national Legislature and national Government, may have been another, and possibly a controlling motive.

But whatever the motive, it was done, and has often been complained of; so has the grant of the right of suffrage, in the north, to negroes, runaway slaves and others, been often complained of; but the right and power of the States so to extend this privilege was unquestionable, and has therefore passed unquestioned. The extension to negroes of this precious privilege in the north was at least as great, if not indeed a much greater evil than the non-exclusion from its use of the unnaturalized white inhabitants of the west; yet nothing is said of the former, whilst the latter is used as another great cause of excitement against *all* foreigners, and made the pretext for propositions to alter and amend the naturalization laws in various modes, and such an elongation of the probationary period, as almost to amount to a prohibition of all naturalization. Can all or any of the proposed changes in the naturalization laws remedy, or at all effect the thing complained of? No! the complaint is not that citizens vote at elections, but that non-naturalized foreigners use and abuse that highest prerogative of the citizen. Then your proposed remedy, which only forbids making or naturalizing citizens, is no remedy. You do prevent an alien from voting where the law gives to aliens that right, by preventing him from becoming a citizen?

Is there then no remedy? Yes, there is one, and only one, within the reach of the power of the people of the United States, and that will be found by most of them to be a remedy far worse than the disease. What is that remedy? Why, to amend the constitution of the United States, by striking from it the words above quoted from the 1st clause of the second section and first article of that instrument which secures to the several States the right to prescribe the qualification of electors (voters) for federal