hope, will secure their prosperity and improvement; and a large portion of the moral debt we owe them will then be paid.

The Report from the Secretary of the Navy, showing the condition of that branch of the service, is recommended to your special attention. It appears from it, that our naval force at present in commission, with all the activity which can be given to it, is inadequate to the protection of our rapidly increasing commerce. This consideration, and the more general one which regards this arm of the national defence as our best security against foreign aggressions, strongly urge the importance of the measures which promote its gradual enlargement, and a speedy increase of the force which has been heretofore employed abroad and at home. You will perceive, from the estimates which appear in the report of the Secretary of the Navy, that the expenditures necessary to this increase of its force, though of considerable amount, are small compared with the benefits which they will secure to the country.

As a means of strengthening this national arm, I also recommend to your particular attention the propriety of the suggestion which attracted the consideration of Congress at its last session, respecting the enlistment of boys at a suitable age in the service. In this manner a nursery of skilful and able-bodied seamen can be established, which will be of the greatest importance. Next to the capacity to put afloat and arm the requisite number of ships is the possession of the means to man them efficiently; and nothing seems better calculated to aid this object than the measure proposed. As an auxiliary to the advantages derived from our extensive commercial marine, it would furnish us with a resource ample enough for all the exigencies which can be anticipated.—Considering the state of our resources, it cannot be doubted that whatever provision the liberality and wisdom of Congress may now adopt, with a view to the perfect organization of this branch of our service, will meet the approbation of all classes of our citizens.

By the report of the Postmaster General, it appears that the revenue of that department during the year ending on the 30th day of June last, exceeded its accruing responsibilities $336,208; and that the surplus of the present fiscal year is estimated at $176,227. It further appears that the debt of the department on the 1st day of July last, including the amount due to contractors for the quarter then just expired, was about $1,004,284; exceeding the available means about $48,700, and that, on the first instant, about $500,477 of this debt had been paid. $493,944 out of postages accruing before July, and $137,656 out of postages accruing since. In these payments are included $97,000 of the old debt due to banks. After making these payments, the department had $75,000 in bank on the 1st inst. The pleasing assurance is given, that the department is entirely free from embarrassment, and that, by collection of outstanding balances and of the current surplus, the remaining portion of the bank debt, and a part of the other debt, will probably be paid in April next, leaving thereafter a heavy amount to be applied in extending the mail facilities of the country.—Reserving a considerable sum for the improvement of existing mail routes, it is stated that the department will be able to sustain with perfect convenience an annual charge of $500,000 for the support of new routes, to commence as soon as they can be established and the measures adopted by the Postmaster General to bring the means of the department into action, and to affect a speedy extinguishment of its debt, as well as to produce an efficient administration of its affairs, will be found detailed at length in his able and luminous report. Aided by a reorganization on the principles suggested, and such salutary provisions in the laws regulating its administrative duties as the wisdom of Congress may devise or approve, that important department will soon attain a degree of usefulness proportioned to the increase of our population and the extension of our settlements. Particular attention is solicited to that portion of the report of the Postmaster General which relates to the carriage of Mails of the United States upon railroads constructed by private corporations under the authority of the several States. The reliance which the General Government can place on those roads as a means of carrying on its operations, and the principles on which the use of them is to be obtained, cannot too soon be considered and settled. Already does the spirit of monopoly begin to exhibit its natural propensities, in attempts to exact from the public, for services which it supposes cannot be obtained on other terms, the most extravagant compensation. If these claims be persisted in, the question may arise whether a combination of citizens, acting under charters of incorporation from the States, can by a direct refusal or the demand of an exhorbitant price, exclude the United States from the use of the established channels of communication between the different sections of the country; and whether the U. States cannot, without transcending their constitutional powers secure to the Post Office Department the use of these roads, by an act of Congress which shall provide within itself some equitable mode of adjusting the amount of compensation. To obviate, if possible, the necessity of considering this question, it is suggested whether it be not expedient to fix by law, the amounts which shall be offered to railroad companies for the conveyance of the mails, graduated according to their average weight, to be ascertained and declared by the Postmaster General. It is probable that a liberal proposition of that sort would be accepted.

In connection with these provisions in relation to the Post Office Department, I must also invite your attention to the painful excitement produced in the South, by attempts to circulate through the mails inflammatory appeals addressed to the passions of the slaves, in prints, and in various sorts of publications, calculated to stimulate them to insurrection, and to produce all the horrors of a servile war.

There is doubtless no respectable portion of our countrymen who can be so far misled as to feel any other sentiment than that of indignant regret at conduct so destructive of the harmony and peace of the country, and so repugnant to the principles of our national compact, and to the dictates of humanity and religion. Our happiness and prosperity essentially depend upon peace within our borders, and peace depends upon the maintenance in good faith of those compromises of the constitution upon which the Union is founded.—It is fortunate for the country that the good sense, the generous feeling, and the deep rooted attachment of the people of the non slaveholding states to the Union and to their fellow citizens of the same blood in the South have given so strong and impressive a tone to the sentiments entertained against the proceedings of the misguided persons who have engaged in these unconstitutional and wicked attempts, and especially against the emissaries from foreign parts who have dared to interfere in this matter, as to authorize the hope, that those attempts will no longer be persisted in,—But if these expressions of the public will shall not be sufficint to effect so desirable a result not a doubt can be entertained, that the non slave holding States, so far from countenancing the slightest interference with the constitutional rights of the South, will be prompt to exercise their authority in suppressing, so far as in them lies, whatever is calculated to produce this evil.

In leaving the care of other branches of this interesting subject to the State authorities, to whom they properly belong, it is nevertheless proper for Congress to take such measures as will prevent the Post Office Department, which was designed to foster an amicable intercourse and correspondence between all the members of the Confederacy, from being used as an instrument of an opposite character.—The General Government, to which the great trust is confided, of preserving inviolable the relations, created among the States by the constitution, is especially bound to avoid in its own action, any thing that may disturb them. I would therefore, call the special attention of Congress to the subject, and respectfully suggest the propriety of passing such a law as will prohibit, under severe penalties, the circulation in the Southern States, through the mail of incendiary publications intended to instigate the slaves to insurrection.

I felt it to be my duty, in the first message which I communicated to Congress, to urge upon its attention the propriety of Amending that part of the Constitution which provides for the election of the President and vice President of the United States. The leading object which I had in view was the adoption of some new provisions, which would secure to the people the performance of this high duty, without any intermediate agency. In my annual communications, since, I have enforced the same views, from a sincere conviction that the best interests of the country would be promoted by their adoption. If the subject were an ordinary one, I should have regarded the failure of Congress to act upon it, as an indication of their judgment that the disadvantages which belong to the present system were not so great as those which would result from any attainable substitute that had been submitted to their consideration. Recollecting, however, that propositions to introduce a new feature in our fundamental laws cannot be too patiently examined, and ought not to be received with favor, until the great body of the people are thoroughly impressed with their necessity and value, as a remedy for real evils, I feel that in renewing the recommendation I have heretofore made on the subject, I am not transcending the bounds of a just deference to the sense of Congress, or to the disposition of the people. However much we may differ in the choice of the measures which should guide the administration of the governments, there can be but little doubt in the minds of those who are really friendly to the republican features of our system, that one of its most important securities consists in the separation of the Legislative and Executive powers, at the same time that each is held responsible to the great source of authority, which is acknowledged to be supreme, in the will of the People constitutionally expressed. My reflection and experience satisfy me that the framers of the Constitution, although they were anxious to mark this feature as a settled and fixed principle in the structure of the Government, did not adopt all the precautions that were necessary to secure its practical observance, and that we cannot be said to have carried into complete effect from this organic defect a safe republic.

Considering the great extent of our Confederacy, the rapid increase of its population and the diversity of their interests and pursuits, it cannot be disguised that the contingency by which one branch of the Legislature is to form itself into an electoral college, cannot become one of ordinary occurrence, without producing incalculable mischief. What was intended as the medicine of the constitution in extreme cases, cannot be frequently used without changing its character, and, sooner or later, producing incurable disorder.

Every election by the *House* of Representatives is calculated to lessen the force of that security which is derived from the distinct and separate character of the Legislative and Executive functions, and while it exposes each to temptations adverse to their efficiency as organs of the constitution and laws, its tendency will be to unite both in resisting the will of the People and thus give a direction to the Government anti-republican and dangerous. All history tells us that a free people should be watchful of delegated power, and should never acquiesce in a practice which will diminish their control over it. This obligation, so universal in its application to all the principles of a republic, is peculiarly so in ours where the formation of parties founded on sectional interests is so much fostered by the extent of our territory. These interests, represented by candidates for the Presidency, are constantly prone, in the zeal of party and selfish objects, to generate influences unmindful of the general good, and forgetful of the restraints which the great body of the People would enforce, if they were in no contingency to lose the right of expressing their will. The experience of our country, from the formation of the Government to the present day, demonstrates that the People cannot too soon adopt some stronger safeguard for their right to elect the highest officers known to the Constitution than is contained in that sacred instrument as it now stands.

It is my duty to call the particular attention of Congress to the present condition of the District of Columbia. From whatever cause the great depression has arisen which now exists in the pecuniary concerns of this District it is proper that its situation should be fully understood, and such relief or remedies provided are consistent with the powers of Congress.

I earnestly recommend the extension of every political right to the citizens of the District which their true interests require, and which does not conflict with the provisions of the constitution. It is believed that the laws for the government of the District require revisal and amendment, and that much good may be done by modifying the penal code, so as to give uniformity to its provisions.

Your attention is also invited to the defects which exist in the Judicial system of the U. S. As at present organized, the States of the Union derive unequal advantages from the Federal Judiciary, which have been so often pointed out that I deem it unnecessary to repeat them here. It is hoped that the present Congress will extend to all the States that equality in respect to the benefits of laws of the Union which can only be secured by the uniformity & and efficiency of the Judicial system.

With these observations on the topics of general interest which are deemed worthy of your consideration. I leave them to your care trusting that the legislative measures they call for will be met as the wants and the best intereots of our beloved country demand.

ANDREW JACKSON.

Washigton, 7th December, 1835

From the National Intelligencer.

DANIEL WEBSTER.

(Concluded.)

Mr. Webster, we have already seen, is second to no American living as an advocate and jurist, practising in the high courts of his State and of the Union.—There is this peculiarity in the profession of law in the United States as distinguished from the same pursuits in our parent country of G. Britain. There, the profession is subdivided into seperate departments, one man practising in the admiralty & ecclesiastical courts another in the courts of common law, & a third in chancery & it rarely, if ever, happens, that the same individual has won and fame in all these distinct branches of the law.—Here it is quite otherwise. A leading barrister leads in every walk of his profession. In many of the States there is is no court of chancery as such; and the Supreme Court of the United States, from its peculiar organization, has jurisdiction over questions of all forms and resorts. Hence a great advocate, in this country, is compelled to give his mind to a much wider scope of legal questions and though he be, for this reason, sometimes in danger of falling into superficial and inaccurate views, yet, if he possess sterling powers of mind, he will, of necessity, expand himself into greater comprehension of juridical learning, than he would in other circumstances attain.—Again: Here, we possess a great body of legislation, which is fendemental in its nature, and connected inseparably with principles of government and general political science. In England, on the country, it never happens to a lawyer to be called upon to discuss at the bar large constitutional questions. Owing to these considerations, the bar in this country is a much better school of introductory training for public life, than it is in England.

Mr. Webster enjoys all these advantages for preparatory discipline in the science of government, in common with Mr. Van Buren, Mr. White, and other of the great popular names of our day.—And he possessed another advantage which without any derogation from the merits of either of the prominent individuals just named, it may be truly averred is quite his own peculiar trait, namely unchallenged pre-eminence in the specific qualities of mind adapted to the apprehension and analysis of great questions of constitutional jurisprudence. His rules of judgement in this subject are plain and simple. He approves no other exposition of the Constitution than its own text, read by the lights of common sense and historical illustrations. "He has had no ingenious theories to support, no paradoxes to display, no local glosses to interpret, and no little expedients to expand or contract it according to the interests of party. As he read it, when he brought came into public life, so he reads it, & of all those more which a more intense study and a profound reverence for it naturally produce in great minds" He needed, therefore, but an occasion for calling his faculties into play, to stand forth, as what he is the admitted champion of the Constitution. And this occasion was not long in arriving.

The state of South Carolina is one of the few States in the Union, which has manifested a consistent disposition to do justice to itself in the public men whom it selects for its representatives in the halls of Congress. Such men as Pickney Cheves, Lowndes, Calhoun, Hayne, McDuffie, Preston, whatever exceptionable opinions or theories any of them may have held are in their general character their abilities, and their acquirements an honor to their State and to the Union. This circumstance has bestowed on the State of South Carolina a degree of sway in national affairs, and a power of impression, through the personal influence of her great men which nothing else could have supplied. Nor could any thing else but their transcendent ability avail to give currency to such strange subtleties of monstrous error as compose the staple of the doctrines of nullification. It needs not that we should enter into the history of this matter. It suffices that we allude to it as the topic and occasion which contributed, more than any thing else, to place Mr. Webster before the nation in the enviable attitude he now occupies, as a main pillar and defence of the Constitution.

After it had already deeply agitated South Carolina, and the country at large the heresy of nullification made its appearance most unexpectedly in the Senate of the United States in a debate upon a subject wholly independent of it, being a Resolution introduced by Mr. Foot, of Connecticut, proposing inquiry into the surveys and sales of the public domain at the West. In a speech elicited by this question, Mr. Hayne of South Carolina made a warm attack upon the New England States, for what he injuriously imputed to them as a selfish opposition to the interests of the West. This brought out Mr. Webster, who indignantly repelled the imputation, and touched upon the anticonstitutional notions which had gained favor in South Carrolina. This was carrying the war into the enemy's territory. Mr. Hayne so regarded it. He rejoined in an elaborate, and, indeed, an able, exposition of the whole doctrine of nullification.—It was now Mr. Webster's turn. And he embraced the occasion to present a full & conclusive confutation of that doctrine, in a speech, which, for lofty eloquence, brilliancy and felicity of illustration, acute logic, profound reasoning, and manly patriotism, was never surpassed in the councils of the Union.

It diffused itself throughout the country with the quickness of light, and was read, studied, admired, wherever the name of American, or the cause of the Union, had a charm for the ear, or for the heart. It forms at the present time a text-book of constitutional reference, only second in gravity and authority to the constitution itself. It prostrated and demolished at a blow, as with the club of Hercules, the monster of Nullification and Disunion, which, though it struggled in its dying agonies for a while in South-Carolina, yet ceased from that moment to possess any strength or power elswhere in the United States.—For, subsequently, after Mr. Calhoun came into the Senate as one of the members from South Carolina, and applied his own great powers directly and openly in debate to the defence of nullification, he could not but see it was a battle already fought and lost. And when the friends of the Administration saw fit to introduce the Force Bill so called, the cause of the constitution found in Mr. Webster again its ready and victorious champion.

It is not in questions exclusively of a constitutional bearing, that Mr. Webster has enlightened and strengthened the national attachment to the Union by his admirable exposition of the text of the Constitution. His profound knowledge and singleness of devotion to this great cause appears incidentally in many other discussions, of which examples occur scattered through the published volumes of his speeches, which are, or should be, in the hands of every reader desirous to understand the principles on which the Republic is based.

It remains only that we speak of the other class of topics, to which Mr Webster has paid peculiar attention, that is to say, the financial interests of the United States. Questions of finance are to be regarded in two points of view.—First, as questions of finance merely; in which relation they are simply discussions of public expediency, subject to the great maxims of political economy, and the general science of national wealth. Secondly, as matters of public right, or constitutional law, which are so frequently involved in such questions. In the first case, they are evanescent in their nature, susceptible of change according to the changing aspects of public interest, the political condition of a country, and the state of its trade and industry. In the second case, they are of more steady and permanent importance, in their relation to the public liberties. Thus, the imposition of ship-money, in the reign of Charles I, as a question of taxation merely, was one thing, and as a question of constitutional right, quite a different thing. So it was with the stamp-tax and tea-duty, which stirred up our fathers to revolution, not on account of the amount of the tax, or the form of levy, as a consideration of political economy, but rather on account of the assertion of power on the part of the Parliament, of which assertion they were the means and the subject. And this distinction is necessary to be held in constant remembrance, in reviewing the part borne by Mr. Webster in the most important questions of this class which have come up in his day, to wit: the protection of domestic Manufacture, and the subject of a National Bank.

On the point of the constitutionality of these two measures, which is a thing of permanent principle, not susceptible of change, Mr Webster has at all periods of his life entertained views of dignified consistency. That which was constitutional, when the second statue in the statue-book was enacted, namely, the apportionment of duties so as to foster the home industry, of the country he has held to be ever since constitutional. Nor has he at any time seen cause, in one year, to recommend or vote for a National Bank, & in another to deny its constitutionality. If, in common with very many of the eminent statesmen of New England, he felt and expressed doubts of the expediency of some of the early measures in reference to this matter, on the other hand when the policy of protecting domestic manufactures had come to be the settled system of the country; he was found to be among its ablest and most constant defenders. And so in regard to a National bank. As the business interests of the country, and the need of a bank circulation, became apparent, he gave to the policy his hearty support.—And there is a remarkable consent and harmony between the opinion, which he expressed, in reference to the currency, in 1816, and those which nearly twenty years afterwards he was called upon to enforce; showing not only the early maturity of his mind, but also the soundness of the principles of political economy he professed and maintained.

We shall not enlarge on the events of the last two years, nor on the mass of instructive matter, and the earnest patriotism, which Mr Webster has produced and displayed during that period. The subject is too fresh in the public mind to need it. And it is too closely interwoven with mere partisan questions, to come within the scope and spirit of the present article. We dismiss it, to say a few words on the position, in which the friends of Mr. Webster have placed him, as a candidate for the Presidency.

Mr. Webster is a man and a citizen, upon the untarnished ermine of whose character not a sullying spot of dishonor rests.

He is an orator, whose grave and lofty eloquence, earnest in the impassioned conviction of right, and sustained in its highest flights by the heaven-sent inspirations of genius, speaks to the innermost hearts of his countrymen, like the voice of a great messenger of truth and wisdom.

He is a statesman in the largest and broadest sense, who has looked quite through the policy of nations; to whom the records of the past and the experience of the present are the familiar lessons of the future; one of those men of history, predestined to fill with their greatness the gazing eye of the world.

He is a patriot, true, pure, and constant; on whose brow and whose life is legibly inscribed, in characters of light, the exhortation of Wolsey to Cromwell:

"Be just and fear not,
Let all the ends thou aim'st at be the truth's,
Thy country's and thy God's."

Wither, but to such a man, should the American people go, when they seek a fitting hand to wield the executive authority of the American Union?

We suppose and believe, that if the query be put to any citizen of the United States—what man, (party combination, and purposes, and individual preferences, apart,) do you think best qualified to hold the office of Chief Magistrate of this Republic? The answer of nine persons out of ten would be—Daniel Webster. If his entire fitness for the office, taking into account merely his public services and the qualities of his mind and character, has ever been seriously and deliberately in good faith called in question, it is a fact which has not come within our observation. A Southern man may say, I prefer a Southerner—and he makes this objection against Mr. Van Buren just as decidedly as against Mr. Webster. A friend of Mr. Clay may prefer him; of General Harrison, him; of Mr. White, him; of Mr. Calhoun, him: & still, which of them would deny that Mr. Webster was fitted to do honor to the office & the country? And is not the duty of the opposition, as well as its interest, a plain one? To unite & concentrate their forces upon that individual, among the distinguished men who together adorn and uphold the cause of the opposition, who is the first choice of many, the second choice of nearly all, and avowed on every side to be abundantly, nay, pre-eminently, qualified for the Presidency? With such a candidate in the field, it would be glorious to succeed, it would be no dishonor to fail; and, whatever should be the issue, every man might lay his hand on his heart, and say—I have conscientiously accorded my good wishes, my influence, my vote, to a great man, a patriot of the stamp and lineament of the Phocions and Tullys of old, a statesman of whom my countrymen to the latest generation may be proud,—and I leave the event to the directing wisdom of the good Providence, which overrules the destinies of States and of Empires.

THE FRENCH QUESTION, AND FRENCH OPINIONS.

Considerable attention has been given to the opinions of the "*Courier des Estats Unis*," upon the French Indemnity question. We translate portions of the leading article in that paper of Saturday, into which is copied most of the President's Message.—The Courrier says.

U S Gazette.

"When the President of the United States presented his message to Congress in 1834, we had the painful advantage of forseeing all the difficulties to which it would give rise. When the correspondence of Mr Rives and that of Mr. Livingston were published in the papers, by order of the Executive, we had no doubt of the embarrassments which it would create with the French ministry; & finally, when the tardy adhesion of the President, to the last note of the American Minister at Paris, through the channel of the Secretary of State, was made known, we did not hesitate to say, that having neither official nor diplomatic character, it could have no weight in the discussions of the (French) Cabinet.—Up to this moment all that we foresaw has come to pass—and for the first time, we find ourselves in doubt, as to the effect to be produced in France by this new document from Washington."

"This last message of the President is written with talent and address; whether it really seeks to terminate all the difficulties, or whether it is designed to prepare the mind of the people, for the approbation and the accomplishment of ulterior designs; it rallies all opinions by the tone of independence and patriotism which it has assumed, without indeed an absence of that moderation and propriety which were wanting in the preceding message. The message without any bitterness, without indeed the employment of any expression the least offensive, gives a history of the whole affair of he Indemnity: and they President presents it in a light entirely favorable to the government of which if he is the chief; he abstains, at least from those recriminations which up to the present time have envenomed all, the intercourse between the two nations. In giving only a hasty glance at facts and transactions, he places himself upon highly favorable grounds; and he profits by these advantages which he might have lost in entering into minute details, for no one is ignorant of the fact, that it is the *maladdress* brought into the details of all this affair which has caused all these inconceivable difficulties—the end of which, we fear, has not yet arrived.

[The Editor of the Courier des etats Unis then proceeds to point out the instance of *mal-address* on the part of the American government—the message, the impolitic boastings of Mr. Rives &c. and then proceeds."]

"We confess, with a lively satisfaction, that the affair takes a new color. The message, this year, is written with a moderation which leaves ample space to the good will of the French government.—As nothing had been said about "*apologies, amende honorable,*" and all those expressions which malevolence alone had suggested, perhaps France will be content with the declarations which the President has now made, of his never having intended to insult France."

[The Courier then quotes from the late message, the disavowals and *explanations* which the President makes, and proceeds.

"Certainly, this language is of a kind to put to rest all national susceptibilities which may have been awakened by the message of 1834."

We do not think that the recapitulations of grief enumerated in the message, can be any obstacle to the fulfilment of the treaty, for if the new language of the President can suffice, (of which other judges, than we, will decide) to cause the former expressions to be forgotten, it is but simple justice to confess that the material *facts* are in favor of the United States, and that they have shown for thirty years a patience and resignation which could not have been looked for in the government of Louis Phillippe, pacific as it may profess to be. Certainly explanations and concession have not been withheld from the French Government.

[The Courier then reverts to the leading points of the negotiation between France and the United States, and continues]—

"In view of all these facts, and recalling all these concessions, the French Government may think *now* that it may pay the indemnity without the least injury to French honor. But if we preserve the hope of a prompt accommodation, after the language which we have quoted, we cannot conceal a certain inquietude in re-perusing the passage in which the President announces to Congress that Mr. Barton has received orders to ask the payment of the indemnity. & in case of a refusal, to return to the United States—and in that event another message shall the sent to Congress."

"That this payment would be refused and that Mr. Barton will arrive in the Packet of the 8th of November, we entertain not a doubt. We will not attempt to surmise what will be the character of the new communication of the executive, but we must frankly express our fears that the annunciation of another message may paralyse again the good will of the French cabinet, or at least lead it to defer the fulfilment of the treaty until the character of the threatened document shall be known. The moderation of the first message can scarcely be looked for in that which is announced as dependent upon an event easily to be foreseen. All the griefs of the French cabinet were founded upon the harshness of language, unusual and offensive, and it is possible that they will fear finding in the coming message an augmentation of the subject of complaint, at the very moment when they believe that by paying the indemnity they are putting an end to all these unfortunate contests!

We should not then be astonished to learn, in a few months that the French cabinet had determined to await this second message in order to take a definitive part, and we will add that we could not entertain a doubt of the favorable issue of the affair, if the second message should be written with the same moderation, the same propriety, and the same consideration as the first. We believe that this opinion is held by a great majority of our fellow citizens, whose wishes agree so well with ours, for the prompt termination of these unhappy difficulties."

From the Kent Bugle.

REFORM.

The movement in Frederick.—In a short editorial article last week, we adverted to the meetings which had been held in Frederick on the subject of a reform in the constitution of our State Government. We were not then in possession of the proceedings of the adjourned meeting held in Frederick, at which a preamble report and resolutions submitted by the Hon Francis Thomas, chairman of a committee charged with preparing the same, were read and adopted. They have since come to hand in the Frederick papers. To say that we read them with surprise and regret would but ill convey an idea of the sentiments we experienced in the perusal. We dissent generally from the positions and data assumed in the report, and strongly reprobate the temper in which it has been got up, and the language the committee has thought proper to use.—That some modification in several departments of our State Government is expedient, we, in common with many of our fellow citizens, are free to admit; but that it should be the sweeping reform, annihilating almost every vestige of the existing constitution of this State, which the agitators in Frederick propose, we cannot conceda, neither will the people of this shore submit to it. Our political weight in the councils, and the appointments to office in the State is small enough already, and we believe that we only express the sentiments of a large majority of the people of the Eastern Shore, when we say they will not acquiesce in any reform or alteration in our State Government which has for its object to lessen the small degree of political influence still remaining to us—an alteration which would render us mere cyphers, and would only tend to make the Eastern Shore counties the passive instruments of the grasping and self aggrandisement policy of the larger Western counties.

If we were even convinced of the necessity of the thorough reform, indicated by the Frederick proceedings, we should enter, as we now do, a protest against the agitation of this question at the present time. There is work before us for the coming year which it will require our undivided energies to bring to a successful issue. We are on the threshold of a contest of immense national importance, a contest which, more than any other yet held, is to influence the destines of this country and seal the fate of our children, and our children's children—a contest in which it is to be decided whether the people, in the exercise of their sovereign rights, shall select their own rulers, or bowing to the *nomination of interested Office holders*, and the *dictation of a President* are to surrender into the hands of our Chief Magistrate the *selection* of his *successor*. In this contest, pregnant as it is with consequences so momentous in character, of such deep and abiding interest to our national welfare, we do not desire to see any local questions mixed up, to draw off the attention of some, and to delude others. We shall therefore conclude our remarks for the present with the following extract from the *Hagerstown Torch Light*, which conveys as fully as we could do so, our sentiments on this subject.

"That there are defects in the Constitution of Maryland, and that these defects may be corrected by a Convention of the People of the State, we concede without hesitation. But we cannot conceive that the present is an auspicious season for the agitation of so grave a question as the reforming and remodeling of a long established system, involving, and deeply involving, the best and most vital interests of almost every individual in the state.

An important contest is immediately in view and forcing itself upon us with a rancour and violence almost without a parallel in our political annals. Already the note of prepartion is heard for a great political battle, upon the

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