

ing diligently and in good faith, in this Convention, for the prevention of frauds, in such a line of conduct we shall find a greater remedy for the existing evils, than in all the opinions and denunciations they may utter here. He desired the sincerity of the opinions of the gentleman from Kent to be exhibited in his acts. Opinions without acts were, according to his view of things, of little value.

We have also heard some tremendous denunciations from the gentleman from Queen Anne's. He may be very properly called the Jupiter Tonnans of this Convention. His bold and florid style of eloquence always attracts. He complained of aggressions by this Convention on the rights of the honest voter. So desirous was he to open the polls to all, that he would perhaps even be willing to admit women—who are called the better half of creation, on which he should give no opinion—to vote. The object of laying slight restrictions on the right of suffrage is to give it a higher character, and secure its continuance.

He referred to the admitted fact, that one night's sleeping in a ward of the city of Baltimore gave a right to vote in the ward, so as to afford facilities for fraud, and thought some reform was necessary on this point. He remarked on the recent change which had taken place in the opinions of the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. BOWIE,) who had now become a great friend of the people, and was ready to give the freedom of the elective franchise to all. The gentleman had taken an entirely new position on this subject.

He admitted that frauds exist, and he was willing to apply some remedy. But he did not believe that they existed to the extent which had been represented by the gentleman from Cecil. Wherever we find their existence, let us adopt the best means in our power to prevent them. But he refused to believe that the State was rotten to the core. He had no doubt the gentleman from Cecil believed that the condition of things was as he had represented. But he had acted on erroneous information, and his remarks, as they would go forth to the world, would be keenly felt by the people of the State. He admitted that the gentleman had, by his manner and his talents, done much to sustain the dignity of this Convention, but he ought not to have inflicted so severe a wound on the State. These declarations of the existence of gross frauds were greatly exaggerated. He gloried in being a native of Maryland. He felt for her the affection of a son to a mother; and when he heard these charges made against her,

"In thoughts that breath and words that burn," he would not sit silent, but would rise in her defence. Such defence would have come better from some of those who are candidates for high station. It would have better become them to defend the State over which they intend to preside.

He went on to state that he introduced the registry law, in December 1836. The gentleman from Kent, (Mr. RICAUD,) voted for it.

But times have changed, and men have changed with them. Side by side, that gentleman and himself voted for that law. The gentleman had changed his course and was now opposed to it. When his friend from Charles should bring in his proposition concerning a registry law, he would go with him. And he would say in advance that it does not restrict any right, while it secures the purity of the franchise. His friend from Prince Georges went for the law.

Mr. BOWIE. Was I there?

Mr. SOLLERS. You know very well.

Mr. BOWIE. The record will show.

Mr. SOLLERS went on to say here was a remarkable change.

He proceeded to state the importance of securing the purity of the elective franchise. He agreed that if our institutions were ever to be destroyed, by corruption extending itself from one end to the other, it would result from the abuse of this right of voting. The time may come when the people will abandon the ballot-box for a more fearful struggle. Where then should we find the gentleman from Prince Georges, from Cecil and from Kent? Where will they be in that day when the pillars of the temple are giving way? They will not remain to fall, like Samson, but will fly from the temple to seek some quiet retreat.

Mr. McLANE said that some of the remarks made by the member from Calvert, required so much of reply from him, as would put him right before the community. He was not in a state of health to permit him to deal in loud denunciations, and he was equally incapable of personalities. He had thought it the best course to hear the member speak out to the end, before he attempted any reply. The member from Calvert, in denouncing as untrue his statements of the prevalence of corruption, had, at least, abstained from any assault on his personal truth and honor.

Mr. SOLLERS. I intended to do so.

Mr. McLANE resuming, said he thanked him. At his age, and with the character he had sustained through life, it was not probable that an assault of that kind, if made, would have produced much injury. But the disavowal of such intention did not excuse the attack. He knew the gentleman from Calvert to be incapable of assailing his character for truth. The gentleman had stated that he, (Mr. McL.) had denounced the State as corrupt to the core. It was not so. If the gentleman had listened attentively to the course of his remarks, he would have found, that he did not. Quite the contrary: he stated that he had not heard of the corruption till he came here, and that he did not believe it. He said explicitly that he did not believe the allegation. But he did proceed to say, that if the information was true, and if the evil was as great as had been represented, then the remedies proposed were merely homopœthic doses. That was what he had said. He had said further, that we ought to look for the remedy in the correction of public opinion, and that no man now thought it dishonorable to contribute, without enquiry, to the expenses of an election. He had also said that he would unite to make it disre-