

Complaints of the scarcity of silver coins are reaching us from all quarters; and as the Mint is located here, this city is expected to furnish the necessary supply. Our friends, however, at a distance ought to know that the relative values of gold are now so much altered that the former metal has become an article of merchandise, and is no longer deposited for coinage at the Mint. One hundred dollars in silver cannot be purchased for less than one hundred and three dollars, payable in gold; and of course the former is rapidly disappearing from the currency. No man thinks now of paying his debts in silver. If he has it on hand, he sells it at a premium, and pays only in gold. The exports of coin from this country consist now almost entirely of silver—its high price abroad justifying this exportation. Under these circumstances, it is no wonder that silver coins are becoming scarce; and unless Congress, during its present session, shall adopt measures to reduce their value, by diminishing their weight, or increasing the proportion of alloy, or both, the evil will be so increased before December next that our people all over the Union will be driven to the necessity of purchasing silver coins at a high premium for their ordinary business transactions.

The evil will be increased, too, by the necessity which will compel the banks to withdraw from circulation as rapidly as possible the notes which they have issued of a less denomination than five dollars. For want of a supply of gold dollars, they are now obliged to redeem their notes in silver; and the premium which it now commands in the market holds out too great an inducement for the holders of their small notes to refrain from sending them in rapidly to their counters for change. These notes, once redeemed, will not be re-issued under existing circumstances by the banks; and as it will be impossible for the Mint and its branches for a long time to come to fill the vacuum occasioned by the withdrawal of these small notes with gold dollars, the immediate action of Congress is rendered more imperative in this matter. It is very easy for a New York paper to complain of the operations of the Mint here, and to tell us how rapidly their Mint shall shell out the gold dollars, (when they get it) but this is much more easily said than done. The dollar coin is one of the most troublesome coins that is made at the Mint, required great nicety in its adjustment, more handling, and a greater length of time, than are occupied with the twenty-dollar piece. The Mint here is doing all it can to increase this coinage, but it is utterly unable to supply the demand, so long as such quantities of gold are arriving semi-monthly from California, the owners of which, especially those in New York, are constantly urging its coinage with the least possible delay.

I am well aware that if Congress shall determine to reduce the value of our future silver coins, much time will be required to recoup an amount sufficient for the wants of the Union; but this constitutes no argument for delay, if the measure is proper in itself, and necessary for the transaction of the business of the country. Whenever a law shall pass reducing the value of our future silver coins such per cent. compared with gold as may be deemed advisable, the exportation of our present coins will measurably cease; in consequence of the increased value they will have at home, because in that case the half dollar and other smaller coins will soon begin to pass for a percentage beyond their nominal value, and be worth (measured by gold) what they will actually bring.

This was the case in regard to the gold eagle coined before the passage of the act of 28th June, 1834, and which afterwards passed for \$10.60, because it was worth that price in the new coinage at the Mint.

In the hope that this subject will immediately attract the attention of Congress I am yours, &c.

THE LATE ANNA BAILEY, OF GROTON, (CONN.)

The wide notoriety of Mrs. Bailey is founded on a single incident which happened in the summer of 1813—an incident, coarse and ludicrous in itself, but which has been widely circulated, and yet so much more frequently alluded to than actually told, that a simple detail of the facts seems requisite. The squadron of Commodore Decatur had been chased into New London harbor by a superior British fleet; and an attack upon the town was momentarily expected. It was of great importance that the fort on Groton Heights should immediately be prepared for a vigorous defence. Major Simon Smith, with a band of volunteers from New London, hastened to the reinforcement of the garrison, and preparations were made to give the enemy a warm reception, when it was discovered that they were short of cartridges. Wadding was wanted, and a messenger was sent in haste through the village to procure flannel. The inhabitants had mostly packed their goods and were carrying them off to places less exposed. Mrs. Bailey was sending away her effects, and had only a few necessary articles left in the house. She was crossing the street to a neighbor's door when the messenger, having traversed the village, asking in vain at every house for flannel to make cartridges, accosted her and made known his errand and his ill success. Without a moment's delay, as quick as thought, she slipped her hand into her pocket hole, loosened her skirt, shook it out, and lifting it up, presented it to the messenger with a right hearty laugh, expressing a wish, the import of which was that it might do its work promptly and effectually.

The by-standers were much amused, and uttered a shout of admiration. The

by which rests upon them. They select as their Delegates not hot-brained politicians trained in the atmosphere of party corruption; but men distinguished for purity, for wisdom, for integrity, for prudence, for moderation—men who have passed the age when they are misled by the allurement of ambition; and who may desire to secure for their descendants a free, stable and conservative Government. Their deliberations are conducted with coolness and dignity.

Let such a body assemble in North Carolina, and take into consideration the whole Constitution. Let their wisdom determine whether any alterations should be made, and if any, what they are. Let these alterations then be submitted to the people, and let them decide, in the ballot-box, whether they approve of the result of their labors—whether they prefer the old Constitution or the new. There need be no turmoil—no excitement. Everything will be conducted with that calmness and dignity becoming so important a subject. Within twelve months the Government will be moving on harmoniously in this new sphere of action—every grievance remedied—every cause of complaint taken away—and that which has been the bane of North Carolina, crippling all her efforts to better her condition—retarding all her improvements—Eastern and Western jealousy, banished forever.

We beg our Eastern brethren not to suppose we desire to encroach upon their rights. Not a Western man harbors such a thought. Has the West ever been unjust towards the East?—can one instance be pointed out in the history of our State, where the West was not true to the East? whose she failed to meet her Eastern brethren in the spirit of brotherly kindness and affection? with that spirit which should subsist between members of the same great family?

Then why persist in charging that our object in seeking to obtain a Convention is an attempt to deprive the East of any one of her just rights? We solemnly avow it to be our belief that every cause of complaint that either has against the other, can be easily, readily removed by a Convention; that all differences will be adjusted fairly and wisely; and that we will then form one brotherhood, united in feeling, and interest, and speedily assume that proud stand amongst our sister States to which our resources and the character of our people so eminently entitle our noble old State.

If this one object can be attained, we shall have done more for North Carolina than a quarter of a century of legislation under our present system can accomplish. The mode of altering the Constitution by Convention is much the more economical. The time already consumed by the Legislature in the agitation and discussion of this one proposed amendment, has cost the State more than the whole expenses of the Convention of 1835.—Another Legislature will have to discuss it; and, even if we then fail, the whole cost will have been incurred.—Another amendment may be proposed, and the same expense incurred. So that the mere discussion of each proposed amendment by Legislative enactment, would cost more than a Convention which would settle the whole at once and forever.

Entertaining these views, we have opposed, in the present Legislature, the attempt to take the initiative step to incorporate Free Suffrage into our Constitution by legislative action. We believe the mode is anti-Republican, and contrary to the free spirit of our Free Institutions. We believe you cannot obtain Free Suffrage in the manner proposed; and, we are mistaken if we do not think you cannot obtain it without years of agitation and turmoil. We believe that one amendment in this mode will cost the State more than a Convention which would redress every grievance. We believe that a Convention can be called—that, when called, it will be filled with the wisdom and patriotism of the ablest men of our State; and that they can and will adjust all those matters about which the public mind is beginning to be agitated, to the entire satisfaction of all parties of the State; so as to secure every one in the enjoyment of all his rights of person and of property. This is the object of all free Government. We desire nothing more, and are sure the people do not.

Students efforts have been made by a portion of the public Press to misrepresent our views, and to attribute to us motives which we never entertained. This is a stratagem frequently resorted to, to ward off the force of truth. We are charged with having party designs; and this is charged as a party movement. The charge is not true. It is above party. Our object is to keep our Constitution out of the baneful influences of party politics; to elevate it above all other questions; and to induce action upon it by the wise men of the land. We are the advocates of the right of the people to form their own organic laws.

We have an abiding confidence in the honesty and integrity of the people of North Carolina. We have stood up as the advocates of their rights. Their good alone has governed us in our opinions. We appeal their TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, to free themselves from the shackles of party; to look at this as a question which may affect their and their posterity, for all time to come; and to decide it as becomes NORTH CAROLINIANS—as becomes FREEMEN.

JOHN A. CALDWELL, Raleigh.  
C. J. W. WOODFIN, Raleigh.  
N. W. WOODFIN, Raleigh.  
M. W. WOODFIN, Raleigh.  
W. B. LANG, Raleigh.  
J. W. DAVIS, Raleigh.  
G. M. KILPATRICK, Raleigh.  
J. THORNTON, Raleigh.  
J. A. LILLINGTON, Rowan and Davie.  
A. H. CALDWELL, Rowan and Davie.  
O. G. FORD, Rowan and Davie.  
STEPHEN DODD, Rowan and Davie.  
G. E. DAVIS, Rowan and Davie.  
G. M. KILPATRICK, Rowan and Davie.  
E. M. CAMPBELL, Rowan and Davie.  
FRANCIS LOCKE, Rowan and Davie.  
J. M. POSTER, Rowan and Davie.  
D. M. CALDWELL, Rowan and Davie.  
CALVIN H. WILKY, Guilford.  
PETER ADAMS, Guilford.  
JOHN BARRINGER, Cabarrus.  
J. W. SCOTT, Cabarrus.  
JOHN SIMMONS, Davidson.  
ALPHEG G. FOSTER, Davidson.  
JAS. M. LEACH, Ashe.  
A. D. McMILLAN, Ashe.  
DAVID W. SILEN, Macon.  
JOHN WATSON, Caldwell.  
C. J. H. HARTSON, Madison.  
ANGUS R. KELLY, Moore and Montgomery.  
S. RUSSELL, Montgomery.  
S. SAMUEL FLEMING, Yancey.  
H. T. FARMER, Henderson.  
T. R. CALDWELL, Burke.  
T. G. WATSON, Burke.

LIBERTY IN FRANCE.

A political condemnation has just taken place in Paris, which shows that the judiciary of France is completely subservient to the despotic government which now rules there, under the name of "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity." The following account of the matter is given by the Paris correspondent of the National Intelligencer:

A chemist of Paris and his son (a student of medicine) were charged before the Court of Assizes with an offence against the person of the President of the Republic consisting in the distribution of copies of a plaster cast bearing the inscription, "The Boulogne Oyster, 1840." The caricature represented a rock, upon the summit of which was displayed a large gaping oyster. Within the shell appeared the caricatured likeness of M. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte. There was also a head with an enormous nose, the bushy moustache, and the famous cocked hat of the Emperor. For the conception and distribution of this witty and harmless piece of fun, the father and son were sentenced to two years imprisonment, and \$600 fine. The defendant's counsel, begged a postponement of the trial, to attend the bed of a dying father. It was refused; the trial was ordered. And the sentence without the intervention of a jury.

The citizens of New Orleans have held a public meeting, in order to raise funds, for the erection of a monument to the memory of General Jackson. There is every prospect of the effort succeeding.

They have their Senators in the State Legislature. But your wives and your daughters; your old men who have served their country; your young men who are rising up to be its hope and its stay; and your poor men upon whom misfortune has laid its heavy hand; have no one there to plead their cause and protect their rights. Is this Liberty?—Is this Freedom?—Is this Republican equality?

Your Bill of Rights says "That all political power is vested in and derived from the people only." Is power in the Senate of North Carolina derived from "the people only?" Let it not be said that taxation and representation go hand in hand. That principle has no application here. It is true that our ancestors fought the battles of the Revolution upon the principle that they were not to be taxed by a body in which they were not represented. But who represented? certainly the people—those who paid the taxes—not the taxes themselves. Our ancestors never claimed that their property should be represented. They claimed, and justly too, that they should be represented. In the Senate, property is represented and not the people; and the same principle which prompted our ancestors to that glorious contest, and sustained them in it, which terminated in the achievement of our Liberties, should prompt us to war against this most odious anti-republican remnant of feudal aristocracy by which the people are taxed by a body in which they are not represented.

Apply the principle and see its injustice.—Ten men in any one county, own as much property and pay no more public tax as five hundred men in another county. They all own the same species of property. Each of the five hundred is equally interested in the preservation of his little mite as either of the ten. Each one has perhaps made it by the labor of his hands, by the sweat of his brow. It is all he has, by means of which to maintain and provide for his family. It is the dependence of his children for education—for sustenance. And yet, by the present system, the ten are equal to the five hundred. Is this justice? Is this Liberty? Let war break out—let civil commotion arise—whose lives are exposed for the protection of this property? Who are sent forth to fight the battles of your country? The five hundred go forth to fight the battles of your country; to vindicate its honor; to maintain its glory; leaving their wives and little ones to struggle on in poverty and indigence,—while the ten stay at home; enjoy their wealth and boast of the honor and glory of their country, the bravery, the freedom, and equality of its citizens. Save us from such freedom—save us from such equality! It is no freedom—it is no equality. It is downright tyranny—tyranny in its most odious form. The grinding into the dust the many, under the iron heel of power—power under the pretence of being derived from "the people only."

Under the operation of this principle, there are some startling facts. According to the census of 1840, and the apportionment of Senators made under the provision of the Constitution by the Legislature of 1842, seventeen Western Senators represent a majority of the white inhabitants of North Carolina. At the apportionment which will be made in 1852, a still greater discrepancy will be found to exist.—The improvements which have heretofore been made, and are still in progress in North Carolina, tend to a great increase of the value of property and of the subjects of taxation in Eastern Carolina. The Wilmington Rail Road, to which the State has contributed so much, has added greatly to the value of property of every description near it and the amount of taxes is proportionally increased. The Raleigh and Gaston Road, the Cape Fear improvements, the appropriations to Neuse river, to Tar River, to the Weldon Railroad, all have the same tendency. And the immense money, therefore expended heretofore in North Carolina, will have the effect directly, under the present Constitution for the next twenty years, to cause us in the West, where we have the majority of the free white people of the State, to have in the Senate only THIRTEEN MEMBERS; while the minority of the white people will have THIRTY-SEVEN MEMBERS!

We do not desire to be understood as opposing in the least a proper system of Internal Improvements; nor as making any complaints against what has heretofore been done by our Legislature. Nor are we to be regarded as taking ground against the proper protection of property. We should be pained to see the day come in North Carolina when a system of Agrarianism would be pre-eminant; when our people would be less observant of law; less regarded of right. The true theory of free Government is the proper protection of its citizens in the enjoyment of life, liberty and property. The right of property is a right attached to the person of a citizen, and he is to be protected in its enjoyment. Taxes are uniform; and he who possesses a little is as deeply interested in its enjoyment as one possessing a greater share; and equally, nay, more opposed to the imposition of high taxes.

Property has no rights independent of persons. You can give it no rights, nor privileges, nor immunities which affect it alone. It is matter and cannot feel, nor enjoy rights, but in consequence of its possession, you may give its owner political power and privileges. If, then, you protect citizens in the enjoyment of property, is not the possessor of hundreds equally entitled to protection as the owner of thousands? Is his enjoyment the less? Do you measure enjoyment by the quantity enjoyed? Suppose you take from the rich man his thousands—it is only his bill. If you take from the poor man his hundreds—it is his all too.—Which will cling to his all with the more pertinacity? Which will surround it with more guards; use it sparingly; and more carefully provide that it shall not be consumed by profuse and lavish expenditures of Government? It is notorious that the poor complain most of high taxes, and it is natural; it is harder for them to pay them. It diminishes the aggregate of each more, although the amount taken away is less, and every poor man hopes and expects to improve his condition, and one day to become rich. Hence it is in Western North Carolina we are more interested in the preservation of slave property; because, although we may have fewer slaves, we have more slave owners; and, of course, a greater number of persons to watch over any aggressions upon it. The same is true of land. We have more land owners; and owners of every other species of property; and owners of that class of persons who have nothing to enjoy, and nothing to protect or defend, but their rights of person.

To connect together the people of the State in one common bond of interest, it is only necessary that they should possess the same kind of property, and that taxes should be direct and uniform. Indirect taxes are seldom representatives of the wealth of the community where they are collected. The amount of public revenue collected in the city of New York is no

sure test of the wealth of that city. And many of our taxes are indirect, and furnish no index of the wealth of the counties in which they are paid.

It is idle, then, to say you must give more political weight to the rich than the poor—the owner of thousands than the owner of hundreds. A thousand owners of any particular species of property will afford it much more effectual protection than one owner of the same amount and species, under any form of government that would be tolerated for a moment in a free country.

If the West has less capital, fewer slaves, and land less valuable; they will guard their little more carefully than the East; and in guarding their own, they will guard and protect that of their Eastern brethren. We are one people, and God grant that the time may come when we may feel that we are not common enemies, but that our interests are the same. The struggle that has heretofore existed has not resulted in the public good.

Many of our citizens are greatly opposed to the election of Judges by the Legislature, as is required by the constitution. It cannot be disguised that our own Legislature has, in many instances been the scene of intrigues entirely at war with our ideas of the purity of the bench; and in which it was shown that neither character, or qualifications, were made the tests of fitness for office, but simply party services.—Legislators are small bodies; usually elected upon political party grounds; and that, too frequently at the sacrifice of the best interests of the people.

Under these circumstances many believe that the people would be the safest depositories of this power. The opportunity and facility for corruption and intrigue would not exist, and the people, in acting, would not be influenced by the fear of denunciation or punishment of party men. The system has been tried in many States of the Union and found to operate so well that it is much to be doubted whether it will not, in time, be adopted in all.

Others, too, think that they ought to hold office for a limited period. There is no other officer known to our laws, but who is limited to a short period, after which it is laid down at the foot of those from whom he received it; and in determining whether they will again place him in power, they pass upon the manner in which his duties have been discharged. Many of these officers are of the highest character and importance, and equally requiring in the incumbent purity and integrity of character.—No evils have resulted from giving the election of these officers to the people; and certainly no corruption of the people, nor of the officer, has been the consequence. And certainly it is not a question of much difficulty whether we should be cursed with a bad Judge during his life, if, in despite of all precautions, one should unfortunately be elected. In no other instance is such a curse inflicted. Can any other be greater?

The present mode of appointing Justices of the Peace is universally admitted to be worse than a farce. A certain evening is set apart for the purpose; and the members from the different counties hand in the names of those they desire appointed; and they are read at the Clerk's table. Nobody hears the names or cares to hear them. It is understood to be the season for sport,—and is one of those customs of our Legislature long known and recognised and never departed from. They are frequently selected by the member of the Legislature for the influence which each can exert at home in some particular neighborhood. And it is well known that many of those appointed are wholly unfit for the proper performance of the duties entrusted to them. And some of those duties are of the highest importance to their several counties. They enjoy and exercise the power to tax the people; they impose taxes much more heavy than those imposed by the Legislature. They regulate roads; build bridges, court houses and jails; regulate the patrol; and govern the whole police of their several counties; besides exercising original jurisdiction in all cases of debt under \$100, and actions on accounts under \$10; besides presiding in county courts, where business of the highest importance to the interests of all is transacted. They have exclusive jurisdiction of the probate of wills; of granting letters of administration; they appoint guardians, and control the settlement of their accounts, and of the settlement of all estates. There are many other important duties they perform—they are in fact, the great conservators of the peace of society, and upon the proper and efficient performance of their duties, depends in a great measure, the social order, morality, peace and prosperity of every community. Surely, men upon whose qualifications for office, and proper conduct, so much depends, should be selected with great care. There is no amendment to the constitution more imperiously demanded by the public good than this. If they tax the people, ought not the people to elect them? This is a question for them to decide when in convention assembled.

It is made a question, too, by many, whether the election of Secretary of State, Comptroller and Treasurer, ought not to be given to the people; and all other officers now elected by the Legislature, of a general character, when other duties connect them with the whole State.

It has been proposed, too, to provide for the election of a Lieutenant Governor to preside in the Senate, and who shall assume the office of Chief Magistrate of the State upon the death of the incumbent. We all remember the long struggle to elect a Presiding Officer in the Senate, six years ago, and again two years ago, when that body was equally divided. A Lieutenant Governor would have removed that difficulty.

The Rules of the Senate require that the Presiding Officer of that body shall not vote upon questions pending before it, except in case of a tie, and when his vote may make a tie.—And he is not permitted to speak, except when the House is in Committee of the Whole.—One Senatorial District is therefore necessarily almost wholly disfranchised. The propriety of this state of things will readily occur to all.

Many other complaints exist against the present constitution. Many other improvements could be pointed out, more consistent with the progress of the age. The science of government is progressive as every other science.—The people improve; their means of knowledge increase; their circumstances change; their relations towards one another, and towards citizens of their sister States alter. Our sister States every where around us are taking advantage of this age of improvement to improve their forms of government, adopted when the rights of the people were comparatively little known. Is our constitution alone to receive no improvement from the spirit that is abroad?—Is North Carolina alone to stand still? Is she alone to continue bound in those shackles which have kept her limbs so long fettered in the

AN ADDRESS  
To the People of North Carolina, on the subject of Constitutional Reform.

RALPH, JAN. 1st, 1851.

A meeting composed principally of Western Members of the Legislature, was held in the Capitol, on the evening of 1st January, i. e., to take into consideration the various propositions to amend the Constitution.

On motion of Mr. BYNUM, of Rutherford, George F. Davidson, Esq., of Iredell, was called to the chair; and A. H. CALDWELL, of Rowan, and A. G. FOSTER, of Davidson, appointed Secretaries.

On motion, it was Resolved, that the only proper Republican mode of amending or altering the Constitution is by the People themselves in Convention assembled.

On motion of Mr. ERWIN, of Buncombe, it was Resolved, that a Committee of ten be appointed to prepare an Address to the People of North Carolina; and that said Committee submit it to an adjourned meeting to be called by the Chairman.

ADDRESS.

A Meeting composed principally of Western members of the Legislature, without distinction of Party, was held in the Capitol on the Evening of the 1st of January instant, to consider what measures were necessary to be adopted to secure to the People of North Carolina the right to amend their State Constitution so as fully to answer the great ends for which it was originally established; and to maintain that equality of rights which lies at the foundation of all free and popular Governments.

It is a remarkable feature in the history of our State, that the Free People of the State never have had a voice in the formation of that instrument by which alone their lives, their fortunes, and their personal liberty is protected. The first Constitution was formed at Halifax, 18th December 1776, immediately after we had thrown off the British yoke, when our ancestors were not fully alive to the interests of the people—but still retained a reverence for British usages; where property was always more respected, and had more political weight than the rights of the people. The Delegates to that Convention, in consequence of that natural deference to their ancient customs, were elected only by Freeholders and Householders; and that Convention made the Constitution so formed, the Organic Law of the State. The people who formed neither of these classes, and who constituted a much larger mass of the population of the State, had no voice in the election of Delegates; and the Constitution was not submitted to them for their approval or rejection.

At the time this Constitution was formed, all the Counties in the State except eight, lay East of Raleigh, which has been regarded as the dividing line between the Eastern and Western portions of the State. By its provisions, each County, without regard to its wealth or population, was entitled to send one Senator and two members to the House of Commons; and the Towns of Wilmington, Newbern and Halifax, to which was added, in 1788, Fayetteville, in the East; and Hillsboro' and Salisbury, in the West; each one member in the House of Commons. Under this Constitution we lived, suffering grievances the memory of which has not yet left us, constantly struggling to amend it, until 1835—when the Legislature in the plenitude of its mercy, granted to the people of the State the privilege to say whether they should amend the Constitution in some few points. The Delegates to that Convention were required to be sworn not to transcend the limits prescribed to them by the Legislature, itself but the servant of the people.

The result of the labors was the Constitution under which we now live. By it, the number of members in the Senate is fixed at fifty; and in the House of Commons at one hundred and twenty. Each county is entitled to elect one member at least; and the remainder are elected by the Counties in proportion to their Federal population—that is, to all whites are added three out of every five slaves; and the sum total constitutes the Federal Population.—In the Senate, the County elects Senators in proportion to the taxes paid into the Public Treasury without regard to the sources whence those taxes originated, whether from the permanent wealth of the country, or from those taxes imposed to restrain the vices of the community.

The clause prohibiting any one from voting for Senator unless he was owner in fee of fifty acres of land, contained in the Constitution of 1776, was still retained. To this clause in our Constitution public attention has been directed for the last two years; and its anti-Republican and aristocratic character severely denounced as a remnant of the Federal times, when the people were mere serfs or servants of the Landholders.

In consequence of this denunciation of one particular feature of our Constitution, public attention has been directed to its other provisions. Our People, in 1835, when called upon to decide upon the amendments submitted to them, only had to decide between the old and new; and they naturally preferred the latter, as it gave, in one branch, more political weight to the mass of the people of the State. It was the first instance when they were regarded as all by their own State Constitution. Being naturally lovers of peace and order, and always obedient to the laws of the land they raised no clamors against them, until they were called upon to look into their charter of Liberty, and see that it contained one feature wholly repugnant to Republican equality. In this opinion we all concur. It is right and proper that the people who are governed, should elect those who govern them; and directly at war with that sacred principle contained in the Declaration of Independence, "that all men are free and equal," to exclude from this valued privilege any freeman because of his not being a landholder.

Equally opposed to this principle is the rule by which political power is measured by the basis of representation in the Senate. To place it in its most favorable light, the Senate represents property, and not persons—money, not men—matter, not mind. But its odiousness does not stop here. You are all familiar with the subjects of taxation, and these taxes are represented—not you, the people. All white males between the ages of 21 and 45 are subject to a poll tax; and all slaves, male and female, between the ages of 12 and 50 are subject to the like tax: So that three-fifths of the negroes are represented in the House of Commons, and all the negroes, between the ages above designated, are represented in the Senate; but your wives and children have no political rights. Pedlars, Billiard Tables, Bowling Alleys, Circus Riders, Playing Cards, Retailers of Spirituous Liquors, Brokers, Merchants, Watches, and Carriages are all taxed.