

Mr. PHELPS, (in his seat.) I was not one, sir, either at home or elsewhere.

Mr. STEWART said that many gentlemen from the Eastern Shore had voted for internal improvements; and for the reason, that the enchanting view was held out to them, that at some day an enormous income would accrue from them into the coffers of the State. They had been disappointed, and now that the scheme had failed, with the frailty of human nature, they turned round and abused those that originated it. He believed that those who participated in that movement, really believed they were about to build up the grandeur and glory of the State.— The gentleman from Dorchester had said that he did not favor these internal improvements. If his recollection would serve him, he would say that when a boy of thirteen or fourteen, he had ridden four miles to attend a political meeting at Church Creek. The gentleman from Dorchester, then got up and portrayed in the most glowing terms, the great benefit that would result to the State of Maryland from these internal improvements, not knowing that there was any body there to reply to him, and supposing that he had the whole field to himself. He had no sooner taken his seat, however, than George A. Z. Smith arose and said that it would bring taxation upon the whole people of the State, and would not benefit the Eastern Shore. The gentleman from Dorchester arose and said that Mr. Smith was mistaken, and that he would almost venture himself to guarantee to pay every cent of taxation that was ever brought upon the State. He was sorry to say that the gentleman from Dorchester had been mistaken in this. He wished that the works had brought those advantages to the State treasury.

Mr. SPRIGG begged leave to remind the gentleman, that one of those institutions, at least, was just now in the commencement of a successful experiment.

Mr. STEWART said that he was about to add that as the darkest portion of the night is just before the dawn; perhaps these works would yet realize all that was anticipated, and he was happy to be confirmed by the President of one of these works. He trusted that the tables would yet be turned, and that their early advocates would in the end be rewarded with their success.

He was sorry to perceive the jealousy which existed between different sections of the State. The Eastern Shore, the Western Shore, and the city of Baltimore, each conceived itself to be wronged by the others. He trusted that this feeling of jealousy and disunion, would be taken from every heart, and that members would come around our common altar, and legislate for the good of the whole State.

He had no fears for the Eastern Shore. He looked forward to the time when his county would contain a population of twenty thousand. There was there a spirit of improvement abroad, and it would be felt. Caroline county had been taxed as much as any other portion of the State, and not one cent of that whole taxation had ever

returned to her. There had been a constant tide flowing from the county with no counter current; but says the proverb, "Tis a long tide that never turns," and he believed that that tide was now beginning to flow back gradually. The delegates of Baltimore city had spoken of the enormous amount they paid in taxation. But it all returned to that city. If the account were to be kept of the amount which Baltimore paid, and if from this there should be subtracted whatever Baltimore city received again from the internal improvements, and other sources, it would be found that Baltimore city was not in reality taxed more than Caroline county. He would be willing that Baltimore city should be represented according to population. He did not fear such a representation. But if either section should be allowed a representation much diverse from that now given, the other would rise up en masse and vote down the Constitution. It was this which induced him to vote as he did. But the opinion was fast gaining ground in Maryland, in favor of representation according to population. That principle was in accordance with his own sentiments. Yet while in the Convention, representing a constituency, he should reflect the will of that constituency, who he was so proud to represent. In his course here, he had looked to their views and interests, which he thought not antagonistic to the interest of the whole State. They were a people that only desired to be left alone and freed from taxation. Caroline would then blossom like the rose.

Mr. PHELPS observed, he could but regard the course of the gentleman from Caroline, toward himself, as very extraordinary, and especially so, as gentlemen all around must recollect, that not one word has been said in the whole range of this debate, upon the subject of internal improvements.

This charge, Mr. President has been urged, (Mr. Phelps said,) against him, by his political opponents, in his own county, in every canvass since 1839, and he had from that time, to the present, always successfully repelled it. He could but again express his astonishment at the course of the gentleman from Caroline, in forcing into this debate, this charge which he himself had heard him, over and again explain, to the satisfaction at least, of his own political friends, of his own county, and to whom he was alone responsible for his opinions upon this and all other subjects of State policy.

He felt thankful, however, that this subject had been obtruded upon the notice of the Convention, as it would afford him an opportunity of placing upon record and of transmitting to posterity it may be, what he did say upon that occasion, and what he now intended to repeat.

The gentleman has said he was present when this speech was delivered, and that he spoke from his own personal recollections, and yet he tells this Convention, that at that time, he was a *little boy* of thirteen years of age. This *little boy*, Mr. President, could not in the nature of things at that juvenile age have been much accustomed to witness discussions upon grave