

most evanescent in nature has been used for comparison, to show how fleeting those political parties are. It would be vain, even if it were desired, to make an attempt to frame any part of the Constitution for the benefit of any existing party. Even in ordinary times, legislation for such a purpose is as apt to result in defeat as in success.

There are several branches of this subject, Mr. President, on which I had desired to express my views; but I find that I shall be unable to treat them satisfactorily in the time that remains to me. I, therefore, pass over them entirely. On one point, however, I must say a few words, and that is the unity of the State of Maryland. I have always felt great pain at hearing the criminations and re-criminations which have passed on this floor between gentlemen representing different sections of the State. I can say with perfect sincerity, that I have not sympathised in the slightest degree with any of these exhibitions of local jealousy. I have always considered this State not as a mere accidental aggregation of parts, having no natural connexion with each other, but as united by arteries and veins, sinews and nerves, into one living sensitive body. I believe that any dissension among its various members is wrong and unnatural. I know of no real conflict of interests between any of the counties and the city of Baltimore; and no fear of such immediate conflict has caused me to resist representation according to population. Looking to the future, I deem it unwise that any concentrated mass of the people, having identical interests and feelings, should possess an overwhelming political weight, from which the rest of the community might hereafter suffer; but at present, the interests of all seem to me to harmonise, and I am sure that the most perfect unity of feeling pervades the whole of Maryland.

I have heard a great deal said by gentlemen from the Eastern Shore, which implied that the interests of that Shore are antagonistic to those of the Western Shore, and of the city of Baltimore especially. But it certainly is not so. The mighty Chesapeake, though it seems to separate, does in fact bring those who live on its shores into closer communion, than could exist, if as great a reach of land were interposed. The counties connected with Baltimore by bands of iron are no nearer to her, than those on the other side of the Bay—whose broad surface is covered with numberless white wings, which waft the various produce of the one Shore to be exchanged for the commodities gathered into the emporium of trade on the other. Art could never have furnished a better mode of communication than nature has so beneficently bestowed upon us.—One common interest and one common feeling pervade the whole State. A throb on the Western Shore is felt upon the Eastern; for in this case, water is a perfect conductor.

In spite, however, of all the bitter expressions to which I have alluded, my observation, made in personal intercourse with gentlemen here, has taught me, that there is no real hostility in their

hearts, and that these sectional prejudices act only on the surface. The slight effervescence of this sort which occasionally takes place, passes off rapidly in words, and all that excited it is soon forgotten; whilst in regard to any question really affecting the interest or the honor of the State, we find a most cordial unanimity of feeling and purpose, and a recognition of brotherhood, which give the best assurance of future harmony. It gratifies me to say this, because I have no sympathy with what is mere sectional—I love the whole State. It is natural enough, that those who here represent particular counties, should think it incumbent on them to urge extreme claims, and that they should show their zeal for their constituents by the vehemence with which they contest the claims of others. But after the contest is over, and the adjustment made, the spirit of union and kindly intercourse prevails as strongly as ever.

Having thus, Mr. President, stated my general views, and the reasons and feelings which have led me to seek an immediate settlement of this vexed question, I now close my remarks, hoping for a good result from the voting which is to follow.

Mr. THOMAS wished to say a few words in relation to his position. He had never abandoned his position from the beginning of the session till this hour, and that was his decided preference for the single district system; and, in his opinion, gentlemen would best accomplish their purpose by voting for some proposition fixing the number of representatives to which the city of Baltimore and the several counties of the State should be entitled. Now, he had cast his eye over the list of propositions, for that purpose, before the House, and he had risen to say, that he would vote for the plan proposed by the gentleman from Washington, (Mr. FIERY.) He did so, in part, because a large proportion of the members of this Convention who desired a new Constitution, appeared to prefer that proposition to all others before the House. But, he wished to be understood as not suiting his vote in order to meet their judgment, he being favorable to the plan of the gentleman from Washington county on its merits as compared with others, and seeing in it nothing that would conflict with his preference for single districts. Let the Convention decide upon what number of representatives each city and county should be entitled to. Then the proposition to divide the State into single districts could be added to the proposition of the gentleman from Washington as it was not inconsistent with it in any respect. He would foretell another thing: let the majority of the Convention determine to give to the great counties of Frederick and Washington, and Baltimore and to other portions of the State their just proportion of representatives, and he predicted that those who had adhered to the old Constitution as it was, would soon find the predicament in which the communities would be placed whom they represented; and the warmest, the most decided and enthusiastic champion of the republican mode of representation that he preferred, would come from that quarter of the State which