

had been influenced by political considerations. Sir, there stands the recorded fact—they have voted to deprive themselves—their own Shore—their own county—of a portion and a proportion of the representation it had. The fact is of record, on your journal, that while some of us have urged our claims to the representation guaranteed to us by the compromise of 1836, we have been opposed, resisted, out-voted, defeated, by a decided majority, a solid column, composed in part of members from those very counties, which, by this majority, has been shorn and stripped of its proportionate political influence. It has been done and done deliberately. There must be some cause, some motive, which has occasioned these doings. We all act from motive. What was man but a creature of motive? What was mind but something operated upon by inducement? Did the gentlemen know of an instance in which a community—a community of people—had spontaneously risen up and said to another body of people, “We have more political power than justly belongs to us; take part of it from us?” Was ever such a thing done since the first foundations of society were laid? Why, sir, you will as soon see men tender to their neighbors a portion of their money, or their property, because they have more than their just share of the good things of this life. Men would give their money, or their goods, or their labor, to receive some equivalent in return; and so would they part with a portion of their political power, to receive some full equivalent. But such an equivalent would alone induce them to part with the one or the other. Yet it was a fact, a recorded fact, that some gentlemen from the Eastern Shore had voted to reduce the number and the proportion of the delegation from that Shore. Then, sir, I say they must have some reason, some motive, for thus voting. Would these gentlemen themselves be willing to say they had no motive for what they had done? Now, sir, I can perceive, very readily, that by throwing a greater amount of power into the hands of the citizens of Baltimore, and the large counties, which cast their votes in the same way as the majority in the city of Baltimore cast theirs, I can readily understand, how by making this power more effective in the political control of the State, the predominance of the party, in the whole State, may be better secured, and thereby each portion of that State party, dispersed through the counties, increase the prospect of securing political appointments. I can well enough comprehend, how, by stripping other counties, of different and adverse political sentiments—to an extent very much beyond the number and extent of themselves, they will weaken the adverse party, as an entire or State party, and of course, relatively strengthen their own. This is an influence or motive which I can comprehend and appreciate, and I am free to say, I can neither appreciate or comprehend any other, which seems to me adequate to resolve what is passing before us. By this process the equivalent is received—a double equivalent, for first the political strength of the adversary is reduced, and next the favorite party is strengthened, in

other respects more important than that in which a part of their power is given up. Well, sir, gentlemen have reiterated and retorted the remark, imputing political views to those of us, who differ from them. Now, sir, I have no concealment on this subject; never had. I will not stand on this floor, nor any where else, and make insincere professions. I say then distinctly, if a proposition is here presented to me, the result of which, according to my best judgment, is only to affect the interests of the State in so far as it affects the elevation of the one, or the other, of the two political parties which divide us, I will certainly, in such case, advocate the course by which the party to which I am attached will be advanced. I never have, and never will disclaim such a purpose. But, sir, I do say, with equal sincerity, that I will never advocate a measure which promises to advance any party, if in my judgment that measure is not sanctioned by considerations of policy and propriety, which promise to make it useful to the State. No measure, which I believe will prejudice the State, shall ever have my sanction here, however successfully it might operate as a party measure. My judgment may be biased, prejudiced, in a particular case. That is a matter for the exercise and the best efforts of my understanding. I shall carefully endeavor to do my duty in this particular, and for the success or failure of that endeavor, must account to my constituents.

The gentleman had spoken of his own course, but I have no more to say in relation to it; let his constituents judge him, as mine will judge me. And now, sir, I have acquitted myself of no very pleasant duty, but one which seemed to be imposed upon me by the remarks of the gentleman from Queen Anne's.

Mr. GRASON said, that, in alluding to the disposition of the gentleman from Kent to assail other members, he had expressly ascribed it to the excitement of debate, and had given him credit for the liberality which he generally manifested after having time for reflection. Between that gentleman and himself there had always been a friendly intercourse. He would never say a word to offend the feelings of that gentleman, unless in answer to some attack upon himself. The gentleman had alluded to him as being recreant to the interests of the Eastern Shore. That was the meaning, if not the words, of the gentleman from Kent, between whom and himself, in relation to the subject of representation, there was only the difference of two delegates to be allowed to the city of Baltimore. But the gentleman insisted that his being in the minority, compelled him to propose what was not acceptable to him or his friends, while those in the majority were at liberty to submit such plans as were least objectionable to themselves. He had, himself, been placed precisely in the same position as the gentleman from Kent, having been always in the minority on this question till yesterday, when his substitute was adopted by the Convention. In preparing that substitute, his object has been, not merely to gratify his own