

There is another view of the subject, which the undersigned think, cannot fail to have great weight in considering the propriety of calling a convention to re-model, or form a new constitution, whether the subsequent action of the Legislature to give it efficacy, is contemplated or not. The State at this time is oppressed with an enormous debt, and the people with a patriotic devotion to its honor, are making efforts to pay it, which, notwithstanding the vituperation of those, who from interest, or ignorance of the circumstances, are unsparing in their denunciations, must hereafter, and when their efforts, are crowned, as they will be, with success, secure for them the praise, which their exertions so richly merit. It is at this moment, and when from the experience of the past year, there is every reason to hope and believe, that the fair fame of the State is about to emerge from the cloud that has obscured it, that this distracting subject of a thorough reorganization of the government, is thrust upon the public attention. The undersigned cannot but think, that the fierce struggles for ascendancy, which will unavoidably convulse the State, if a convention is assembled to parcel out and distribute again its political power, will necessarily have a most disastrous influence upon the noble sacrifices, now being made to meet our pecuniary engagements. They cannot conceal from themselves, and they would be deficient in the duty they owe their constituents who placed them in their position of responsibility if they did not declare their belief to be, that the design of much the largest number of those, who are pressing this subject of a convention, is to change the basis of representation from the present mixed basis of population and territory, to one founded exclusively on numbers.

That the purpose of the reformers by means of a convention, is to have representation according to population, the undersigned think sufficiently apparent to justify them in sounding the alarm. Such an alteration in the constitution, would break down all its guarantees, and place the weaker sections of the State entirely at the mercy of the stronger.

Assuming this to be the case, and there can be no doubt that such would be the general impression, who can estimate how violently the public mind would be agitated, or the depth of the resentments which such a contest would engender? Can there be a doubt then, that in the whirlwind of the political warfare, when men's passions would become inflamed, and section arrayed against section, that the efforts now making, to rescue the State from disgrace would be utterly paralyzed? The undersigned are full of apprehension, that the commotion, and strife, the dissensions, and heart burning, the conviction of the violation of plighted engagements and solemn compact, which a movement of this sort would kindle in the public mind, would render powerless, and ineffectual, the labors of the patriotic and the good, who are endeavoring to wipe out the ignominy, which infidelity to our pecuniary engagements, permanently continued, must entail upon us.

They think that, it is the part of wisdom as well as of virtue, to