

tees, who were in the city. After the lapse of fifteen minutes, the sergeant-at-arms appeared at the bar of the House with the absent members in custody.

The sergeant-at-arms having made his report the members were discharged and all further proceedings under the call were dispensed with.

The consideration of the report of the executive committee was then resumed, the pending question being the amendment of Mr. Page, as given above.

Mr. Gill was now in order, and would conclude his remarks. There was an immense inequality of population in these proposed districts, as shown by the last census, and this inequality was now greatly augmented. He was opposed to drawing county lines in the selection of the Governor, and would greatly prefer that the best man should always be selected for the office, no matter from what quarter of the State he came. If the Convention thought differently, he did trust that such a districting as that now proposed would not be adopted.

Mr. Page said his amendment was intended merely for the protection of the interests of the Eastern Shore. These two sections, though living under one government, were practically different communities. It could not be contended that the manufacturing interests of Baltimore, or the coal interests of Allegany, were identical with the agricultural interests of the Eastern Shore. Their interests might not amount to so much in dollars and cents as the interests of portions of the Western Shore, but they were as much to them, and the State owed it to herself to protect the weaker portion as much as the stronger. Another reason for this districting was that the conventions were always held in the city of Baltimore, and the paraphernalia of party power was so efficient there that the nominations could always be controlled.

Mr. Stoddert opposed any districting of the State as calculated to beget division. He discussed the subject at length.

Mr. Carter moved an amendment providing for the districting of the State as reported by the minority of the committee on the Executive Department, and providing