

thrown in their faces. Let Baltimore have the registry law, but why should they want to force it on those who did not want it? He lived in a city (Frederick) of 10,000 inhabitants, and they not only knew every voter there, but the house of every voter, and needed no registry to assist them. The prejudices of his people were against this law, because of its impure source; it was the unhealthy offspring of a diseased parent. As for himself, he did not care that it was a radical measure, but he did care because of its heavy expense. It was an onerous and useless burden on an already overtaxed people.

Mr. Wickes, after listening to the arguments on the subject, was convinced that a uniform system of registration throughout all the counties was absolutely essential. He regretted to see the exhibition of sectional feeling which had been displayed. A stranger coming into this hall might suppose that they were forming twenty-one or twenty-two different constitutions, not a constitution for the State of Maryland, but for all the counties and the city of Baltimore, and particularly for the city of Baltimore. He did not say this in any invidious sense, or with reference to the views expressed by the gentlemen from Baltimore. It was the gentlemen from the counties that had drawn the broad line of demarcation between the city and the rest of the State. The gentleman from Charles (Mr. Mitchell) objected because this thing had originated with the convention of 1864. Had it not been stripped of all its proscriptive features? The gentleman from Frederick (Mr. Nelson) got up here and, from the tenor of his remarks, it might be presumed that Frederick county should be erected into an independent sovereignty. The gentleman said his people did not want this registry system, and yet they had endorsed the party which initiated it, and the gentleman and his colleagues today represented a minority of the people of his own county.

As to the expense, his friend from Harford (Mr. Archer) informed him that the expense of registering in Harford was about \$800 per annum, and the voting population from 3,500 to 4,000, making an expense of about 20 cents for each voter. In Queen Anne's, with a voting population of some 2,000, the expense was \$465. Was this small amount to be considered of any moment when