

the great principle of popular representation, owing to her peculiar position to the counties, as far as we can go, we will go, in yielding to her an equivalent. What that is to be, must depend upon the compromise which must take place.

Pass the amendment of the gentlemen from Kent, and carry it out, and you had better adjourn at once. The Constitution which we may adopt has to be ratified by the people. If you set Baltimore against it, what prospect of ratification is there. It is too important an interest to be overlooked. It is entitled to the highest respect, and demands our serious consideration. We must not neglect it. If you pass the amendment of the gentleman, and say to her, that she is not to be heard in this compromise, her entire weight will be put in opposition to your Constitution. And so, in the same spirit, he said to the gentlemen from Baltimore, and the larger counties, if you adopt the rule of representation according to population, and attempt to force it, on the smaller counties, then you will array them against our proceedings, and raise, in them, one united army of opposition, who will stop at no point short of a total overthrow of the Constitution, which we may recommend. I appeal then to the reformers in this House, who are truly desirous to get rid of the abuses and inconveniences of the old Constitution, and to adopt one in conformity with the progressive spirit of the age, and which will give to you a more economical, a better, and a purer government, to vote down the amendment of the gentleman from Kent, and unite in a spirit of conciliation. Let it go forth from these Halls, that we will fraternise on this great question, and we will still the storm of passion, and prepare the public mind to accept with favor the work of our hands.

The gentleman from Kent, is further opposed to extending the compromise to Baltimore, because the original Constitution fixed a ratio of representation which was just, and which, by subsequent compromises, has tended to the injury of the counties.

The gentleman can find nothing to sustain him, in the ratio of representation, as adopted in our Constitution of seventy-six. At that time, we had no large city within our limits. The counties, which now constitute the smaller counties, were then the important sections of the State, and very much equal; and there were several commercial points on the Eastern Shore, of far greater magnitude than Baltimore town, as it was then known. Besides, our government was then one of experiment, and framed in the very midst of war. The gallant spirits who framed it, are entitled to our highest praise, and should ever be remembered with tears of gratitude and smiles of admiration. Under the circumstances which gave it birth, it was admirably suited to the crisis, but still it was imperfect, necessarily imperfect. The defects soon became manifest, and from that time to the present, have been undergoing changes. It is unnecessary to enumerate them all. But he might ask, what were the restrictions on the right of suffrage, and on public officers, from a Sheriff to a Governor? A

property qualification was essential in every case. Again; how imperfect was our Judiciary system, and the mode of appointing the Governor? Time has corrected many of the evils, and this Convention has met to correct them all. And yet the gentleman refers to that Constitution as his guide, on this great question. He could not consent to do so.

The gentleman said that Baltimore had got all she claimed; had fixed the public taxes upon us, and was now anxious to throw off her share of them. He thought this was unjust. Baltimore was not alone responsible for the system of internal improvements and the public debt. The Potomac and the Chesapeake counties, had their share of the reproach. In the Potomac counties the strongest champions of the system were to be found. Nor was there any deficiency on the Eastern Shore. It was made a question, in his, (Queen Anne's) county. He had canvassed every part of it in opposition to the system, not as a candidate, but as one of the people. He had predicted what would be the result, and that every species of property, would be taxed to pay for the system. But the people sustained it and went for the measure, as they did in other counties on that shore. Let no unjust censure then be imposed on Baltimore for this measure, and remember too, that one of the great public works of the State—the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal—is antagonist, in every respect to the city of Baltimore, and always was. Its outlet is in the District of Columbia, where all its commerce must find its way. And this is the great work of the State, from which the people were led to expect such rich returns and so golden a harvest. He hoped it would be realized, though the hope has been long deferred.

We should have no unkind feelings towards the city of Baltimore. It was the heart of the State, diffusing vigor into every part. Into her was pouring the wealth of other States, and other counties. We furnished her with the rich and varied products of our fertile lands, whilst she furnished us in return with her comforts and luxuries. Let us then forget all sectional discord and meet on common ground, in a spirit of just and honorable concession, each to the other. Whilst we say to Baltimore, we cannot give you a representation to which you would be entitled on the basis of population, because to do this would confer on you the means of absorbing all the political influence of the State, yet we are willing to yield you an equivalent, one which will make you stronger than you now are, and as far as possible balance the power in the State, without detriment to any.

Mr. NEILL suggested to Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, so to modify his amendment as to add the words, "and that representation in the counties shall be according to population."

Mr. CHAMBERS declined, remarking that the gentleman could offer his amendment as a separate proposition.

Mr. NEILL supposed it would not be in order for him now to do so.

The PRESIDENT, [Mr. Ricaud, *pro tem.*] said it would not be in order.