

tures, and were called upon to mourn over that organic law adopted by our fathers, containing such restrictions and qualifications.

Mr. B. said his constituents were honest, and he was willing to do them justice. He was unwilling that injustice should, by his vote, be done to any part of the State. We were assembled together for the purpose of framing an organic law, not for Montgomery county, not for the city of Baltimore, but such a Constitution as would be pleasing and acceptable to the citizens of Maryland, and unless they adopted such an instrument, his word for it, there five months labor will have been in vain, the Constitution rejected, and they would return to their constituents, disgraced and dishonored. Although he had been a humble member on that floor, although his voice had not been heard in these halls before, still he had thought deeply and intently upon all the subjects before the Convention.

He had not been wanting in conversation with gentlemen of this body, and in comparing notes, with a view of ascertaining the necessities and wishes of the people in every section of the State. When he voted for the project of the gentleman from Washington, (Mr. Fiery,) he believed that it was a fair, honest and just compromise of this complex and difficult question which was now agitating every section of the State, and that the citizens of Maryland, (restricted as the Legislature had been by other provisions of this Constitution,) would adopt it as the true basis. He had informed his constituents that he was in favor of a compromise, and that he believed this the only one which would ensure the adoption of the new Constitution. What had they done already? They had restricted the Legislature from any interference whatever between master and slave. They had stripped her of all power to appropriate money for internal improvements. These were two great results which the citizens of Maryland desired to effect in this Convention. They had taken from the Governor as far as they had progressed, all patronage, and placed it in the hands of the people. Would not the citizens of Maryland be satisfied with this demonstration on the part of the delegates from all portions of the State? But we had been asked whether we would foster the great city of Baltimore to the ruin and destruction of the small counties? He had read of the different organs of the human body having quarreled with each other—the teeth refused to masticate the food; the tongue its office, &c. The result was, that the poor man pined and died, and so it would be with the State were the counties to war with the city of Baltimore. The prosperity of the counties were as dependant upon the city as the city was upon the counties—each dependant upon the other. His colleague in complaining of the city of Baltimore, had had the frankness to admit that Montgomery had not added to her prosperity. He, (Mr. B.,) regretted it. It was true Montgomery had not contributed much to her growth. Her market had been principally in the District of Columbia, and not until within the last ten or fifteen years had she made the city of Baltimore her market. But where was

the market of the balance of the State, and now of Montgomery, if it were not in the city of Baltimore? Did they not send their tobacco and other products, the growths of her soil, to that city? And did she not become the purchaser of almost all their products? He believed that the city was still willing to encourage and promote the prosperity of the counties.

Suppose we should give to the city of Baltimore representation according to population in the popular branch of the Legislature, and give to each of the counties and the city of Baltimore one senator; he would ask, how could the city of Baltimore do any act deleterious to the interest of the counties if the Senate were honest? Was it not a check upon the popular branch and would not that check be exerted? Would not any senator be recreant to his trust if he failed to place his veto upon the action of the popular branch whenever that action should prove, in his judgment, destructive to the best interest of the counties? This was the conservative branch of the government and territorial power was preserved in her.

What more could we want or desire? Did we wish to disfranchise the city of Baltimore, and declare by our act, that no man in that city should have a voice in the councils of our State? Would not such a course be unjust; and would any individual, either of the city or the counties, be willing to act thus unwisely and unjustly to any part of the State? If there was such an individual, it was not he, for he desired justice to be done to all. At the same time, he desired to retain the check upon the popular branch lest popular will might be carried too far. He wished, therefore, to have the Senate as it at present stands, so that nothing unwise or improper should be enacted.

Mr. B. said, although he admired the eloquent speech of his friend from Charles, [Mr. Brent.] who addressed the house on yesterday, and had listened to it with great attention, he thought the fears expressed by him were unfounded.—That if he had reflected for a moment upon the action of the Legislature of the State, during the session of 1849 and '50, he would have there seen that at this time there were no ground for his fears. For thirty years prior to that session, Maryland had, with a steady step, advanced towards emancipating at some distant day her slaves; every law upon that subject had pointed to that result! The delegates from the lower counties had participated in these enactments. But at the session of 1849-'50, the State upon the subject of slavery became healthy again, and now stands as she did thirty years ago. For thirty years last past, the laws of this State prohibited the importation of slaves within her borders; and more recently one of her own citizens could not take his slave to our sister State Virginia, with the intention of residing there, and then bring that slave back without first making an affidavit that he did not bring said slave into the State for traffic, and record the same in the clerk's office of the county, in which he intended to reside; and paying a bonus for the benefit of