

the colonization society. In 1849-'50, the doors were opened and the privilege was given to the citizens to purchase slaves wherever they pleased, (under certain restrictions,) and introduce them into the State free from all burdens which formerly existed. He then asserted it, without fear of contradiction, that the State of Maryland upon the subject of slavery, was in the year 1850 more healthy than she had been for the last thirty years. What had transpired since that time, to convince this Convention that the State would not continue in this healthy condition?

If any thing had transpired, widening this change, he was not aware of it. He was still willing to trust his native State upon this or any other subject; she had ever been honest to her citizens, and he felt convinced that she would so continue wherever the balance of power might be. It would not be the western portion of the State, nor the city of Baltimore, which would demand a change upon this all absorbing and interesting subject. You may fetter matter but you cannot chain the mind. It cannot be regulated. It would act. And he would not be surprised to see in twenty years, (if he lived so long,) these very counties which are now so jealous of their rights, knocking at the doors of your legislative halls asking relief upon this very subject. He did not believe, that there was a citizen in this State who would be willing to see immediate emancipation take place. Such a procedure would be vital to the best interest, of both classes of society; nor did he believe there would be any material change upon that subject within fifty years to come. The citizens of the lower counties had nothing to fear upon that score. By colonization alone could this change be made. The time would come, he admitted, when the State would feel the necessity of removing this class of persons from her borders. Whenever that period arrived, he could not, whether the balance of power existed in the Eastern or Western Shore, the upper or the lower counties—he repeated it, that whenever the citizens of Maryland felt that it was of vital importance to her growth and wealth, that this change should be made it would be effected. But that period, he predicted, would not arrive until these very counties in which this property now existed to a very great extent, had called upon the Legislature of your State, demanding by their petitions, this very change. He would again call the attention of gentlemen on this floor to the action of this Convention and the Legislature of 1849 and '50. He was unwilling to distrust the citizens of Maryland, she was willing and ever had been to protect her citizens; she could not prove recreant to that holy trust. He spoke individually; he had lived in this State from his birth; it was the land of his nativity; protection had always been extended to him both in his person and his property. He (Mr. B.) had understood that this question prevented many gentlemen from the Eastern Shore, coming up and voting for the compromise measure proposed by the gentleman from Washington. He believed that it was the only compromise which could be carried

in this House. Mr. B. said, that he was not willing, like the gentleman from Montgomery, to remain here this year and the next—thus running the State into an unnecessary expense, without even the prospect of effecting any good for the people—rather than yield his opinions to the better judgment to the sages of this Convention. Though firm he was not obstinate in his opinions. He was willing to compare notes, and hear the opinions and reasons of other gentlemen; and if his judgment could be convinced, no man would abandon his opinions sooner than he, upon conviction of his error. If there was a personal difference between himself and neighbor, he was always willing to compromise upon fair and honorable terms. Allusion had been made to the caucuses held a short time since in the other wing of this building, by that portion of this Convention known as the Reformers. He asked these very particular gentlemen from his own county, who looked upon caucuses with such holy horror, how did they obtain their nomination for a seat in this Convention last fall? It was by a caucus arrangement. He would ask the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers,) if he were not one of the most active and zealous members of that caucus, which nominated and selected you, Mr. President, the presiding officer of this Convention?

Mr. CHAMBERS replied that he had answered that question half a dozen times.

Mr. BREWER said, that the gentleman was one of the most influential members of that caucus. He would propound another interrogatory to the gentleman, as he had not answered the question as propounded to him on yesterday. It was this: Did he not know that the anti-reformers had met or intended to meet on Friday night last; and did he not co-operate with them, although not present?

Mr. CHAMBERS. I answer distinctly unequivocally, and absolutely, without reserve. No.

Mr. BREWER said, this is the first time that his friend from Kent, had positively denied being in that caucus. Was there not such a caucus; and was not the question now before this Convention, discussed in that caucus, and measures adopted by which they were to be carried in this body? Is there a gentleman here who was present at that caucus, who would let him know?

Mr. SPRIGG. I do not know.

Mr. BREWER. You might not have been present; such was the rumor, that a caucus was to have been held by the anti-reform party of this Convention.

Mr. SPRIGG. The gentleman is mistaken.

Mr. BREWER did not deny that he was present at a caucus. All great measures originate in caucus. The compromise measures, by which the general government of these United States were made firm and secure, were adopted in the Senate by arrangement. Gentlemen of both political parties, and from every section of the country, consulted together for the general weal, adopted the views contained in the compromise, and offered them to the American people as a peace offering to the North and to the South. Would any gentleman here say that Daniel Web-