

I again, Mr. President, refer to the authorities and opinions before cited in support of the position I have taken. I have thus far, tediously and uninterestingly, I fear, endeavored to show that the doctrine of the supremacy of the majorities' will is dangerous and untrue, as applicable to the letter of our governments. If I have succeeded in the accomplishment of this object, I have thrown to the ground the bulwark of defence, upon which, the advocates of representation according to population have solely relied for the support of their proposition. I have tripped the sheet anchor of their faith, and they are fairly at sea again amid the stormy elements of politics, on a new voyage of discovery.

The second class of *soi-disant* reformers, consists of those who are in favor of representation according to population, or more odious still, federal numbers, in the counties, restricting Baltimore city to an arbitrary representation. The inconsistency of this proposition may be seen at a glance. While they propose to fix a basis of representation for the counties, by a principle which I have just discussed, they refuse to apply the same principle to Baltimore city. How gentlemen arrive at this conclusion, by any rules of reason, or argument, I am at a loss to know. It has, however, been defended and advocated by several gentlemen, as a measure of compromise; and we have unmistakable indications from many others, that they will support it. It is a strange compromise, based upon the principle of giving much, because more is asked.—*Videndum est, ne major benignitas sit quam facultates*, is a saying of Cicero, but it is a caution which there are few occasions for urging. The present, however, is one of those occasions, on which it may be held up, for reflection to these ever-benevolent gentlemen.

The proposition to which I more especially allude, is that submitted by the gentleman from Washington. [Mr. Fiery.] It is true, sir, that this proposition has been voted on, and defeated; but is now under a motion for reconsideration, with a strong prospect of being reconsidered, and if reconsidered, of being adopted. It is to this proposition, sir, that I desire to apply a few remarks. The same remarks will equally apply to any other proposition leading to the same result, in a relative distribution of representative power between the Northern and Western portion of the State, in which slavery is continually diminishing, and even now, in some counties, exists nominally, more than really, and the Southern counties, to which this institution is almost exclusively confined. Between the same portions of the State, there exists also another difference of interest, the result of geographical locality—the Northern and Western portion being so located as probably to desire additional internal improvements, in the way of railroads and canals, under the curse of which, we, of the Southern counties, have been groaning for the last ten years, and are now groaning, to the tune of nearly two hundred thousand dollars per annum, wrung from the hard earnings of our

people, to enrich Baltimore city and that section of the State, through which these works pass, while we can feel no interest in these works, except that which is prompted by a desire for relief to ourselves, and to the whole State, from the oppressive burden under which we are now laboring.

These, sir, are the local interests to which I have before alluded, as being peculiar to our section of the State, and which in my humble opinion, we are compelled, by lessons of experience and observation, to watch and guard with a jealous care. We cannot attach too much importance to them. We cannot too frequently, nor too vividly draw up for the mind's contemplation, the picture presented by these feelings and interests which conflict with our own. In a review of this picture, sir, we see standing before us a section of the State, naturally fertile, and highly improved by art, covered with a comparatively dense and still increasing population, with little or no slavery in their midst, and what they have, annually diminishing; drawing most of their laboring forces from the white population of a neighboring free State, and the immigrants from foreign countries of Europe; all with feelings naturally averse to slavery, prompted by the idea of enhancement to the value of their own labor, if slavery were removed; with here and there interspersed in their midst, an open-mouthed abolitionist or free-soiler, and hundreds of others, more timid at first, but ready to be the *same things* as soon as they find, or think they shall find, any countenance from public opinion. In the heart of this section, sir, as it relates to close alliance of feeling, is situated a city of immense population, and increasing annually with unprecedented ratio;—drawing by its prosperous and continually improving trade and commerce, most of its increase of population from the free States North of it, and from every country of Europe, who bring with them the feelings and sentiments in relation to slavery, imbibed in the society from which they came—feelings known to be inimical to its existence. Scattered over the whole body politic of this destined to be immensely populous city, may be found an abundance of rotten specks of fanatical humanity, each spreading and diffusing among its contiguous elements its infected and infecting malady. Give them the power, or the means of obtaining, and this to them, obnoxious institution, will be swept away.

Another feature of the picture which we should contemplate, may be seen in the special locality of this great commercial city, drawing to her bosom, wealth, not merely from every hill and dale of Maryland, but from every part of the Union, from every quarter of the globe, and every point of every quarter that is accessible to trade. To her numerous and immense natural avenues of trade, prompted by that spirit of enterprise and grasping cupidity, which is characteristic of all great commercial cities, she must needs add artificial avenues. Splendid