

protected in the Legislature; for the purpose of electing delegates therein, the city of Baltimore shall be divided into ten districts, as follows:—The first and second wards, as now laid off, shall constitute District No. 1, the third and fourth wards District No. 2, the fifth and sixth wards District No. 3, the seventh and eighth wards District No. 4, the ninth and tenth wards No. 5, the eleventh and twelfth wards No. 6, the thirteenth and fourteenth wards No. 7, the fifteenth and sixteenth wards No. 8, the seventeenth and eighteenth wards No. 9, the nineteenth and twentieth wards No. 10. And every county shall, by the General Assembly, be divided into as many districts as the county is entitled to delegates, and numbered accordingly, and the qualified voters in each of said districts, shall at the time and in the manner, in which delegates are chosen, elect one delegate, who has been for one year, next before his election, a resident of the ward from which he shall be elected, and has in all other respects the requisite qualifications of a delegate. And the residence in the district, requisite to give a right of suffrage in voting for delegates, shall be six months next preceeding the election. But in case any voter otherwise qualified, shall have resided less than six months in the district of his then residence, he shall not thereby wholly loss his right to vote at the then pending election; but shall be entitled to cast his vote for a delegate in the district in which he may have resided for the six months next preceeding his removal to the district of his existing residence. And the Legislature may pass all laws necessary to carry into effect this article of the Constitution.

Art. 3. Of the sixty-two members constituting the House of Delegates, Allegany county shall elect three, Anne Arundel county three, Baltimore city ten, Baltimore county four, Carroll county three, Caroline county two, Calvert county two, Cecil county two, Charles county two, Dorchester county two, Frederick county four, Harford county two, Howard county two, Kent county two, Montgomery county two, Prince George's county three, Queen Anne's county two, St. Mary's county two, Somerset county three, Talbot county two, Washington county three, and Worcester county two.

Art. 4. It shall be the duty of the Legislature at its first session next each after the publication of the decennial census of the people of the United States, whenever it shall thereby appear, that any county or city by the increase of its population is entitled, according to the aforesaid basis of representation, to one or more additional delegates; or whenever the population of said districts shall become so grossly unequal as to render it necessary that a reorganization of said districts shall take place in order to a nearer equalization of the population thereof, to reorganize the said districts, and add to their number such additional districts, as said increase of delegates may render necessary.

Mr. DORSEY said, that being under the operation of the gag-law, which this Convention, he

should ever think, had most unjustly imposed upon us; five minutes only being allowed to the mover of any amendment, and not a word in reply or explanation to any other members; the time was so limited that he would not, and could not be able to explain the grounds, upon which this important amendment, entirely new, undiscussed, and unconsidered, (as far as he knew,) by this Convention, ought to be substituted for the proposition of the gentleman from Washington. That proposition had a number of obnoxious features to him, one of which was, that it gave to the non-slaveholding counties forty delegates, while it gave to the slaveholding counties thirty-three—thus stripping them of all security or means of protection for their most valuable rights. His proposition would give to the non-slaveholding counties and the city of Baltimore thirty-one delegates, and to the slaveholding counties the same number, thus placing both portions of the State, distinguished in this debate as "slaveholding and non-slaveholding," as regarded slavery upon a perfect equality. It would be perfectly immaterial whether they adopted the federal basis or the aggregate basis, for the result under t is amendment would be precisely the same in every county. It would be perfectly immaterial, too, whether they adopted the principle, which all appeared disposed to be in favor of, that no county should have less than two delegates, or whether they should have a territorial representation; or, as he regarded it, a representation for population, but without reference to numbers. It would do justice to all by giving two to each, and to the larger counties an increased delegation.

They would deprive Frederick and Baltimore counties, of no delegation on account of territory, but would provide as to one delegate from such county or city, in the mode which existed prior to 1836, when representation was given to population, in proportion to its numbers, with a limitation as respected the city of Baltimore. If five thousand lived in one county, and five hundred in another, the Legislature formerly intended that each should have the same number of delegates. As he had said, the principle was the same, whether they adopted the federal or aggregate basis. It gave the same number that would be given, if they were to adopt it, with reference to territory. It would give to Anne Arundel three, whereas if the qualified territorial basis, proposed by this amendment were not adopted, she would have but two. It would give Carroll three, instead of two. So with a number of other counties, which he had not the time to give in detail. It provided a perfect system in itself, and was designed to operate for all time to come, as a perpetual ratio and basis of representation in the House of Delegates, for every part of the State. It superceded the necessity for any future Convention, in reference to representation in the Legislature. The proposition of the gentleman from Washington did no such thing. It might operate for ten years, but there would be an end of it, for there was no provision for readjustment to meet the varying conditions of popu-