

lation, nor any principle that would give it renewed vitality after 1860.

[The hammer fell, the gentleman's five minutes having expired.]

The question being on agreeing to the substitute,

Mr. STEWART, of Baltimore city, asked the yeas and nays;

Which were ordered,

And being taken, resulted as follows:

*Affirmative.*—Messrs. Chapman, President, Morgan, Blakistone, Dent, Hopewell, Ricaud, Chambers, of Kent, Mitchell, Dorsey, Randall, Kent, Bond, Brent, of Charles, Merrick, John Dennis, James U. Dennis, Crisfield, Williams and Smith—19.

*Negative.*—Messrs. Lee, Donaldson, Wells, Sellman, Weems, Dalrymple, Sollers, Jenifer, Howard Buchanan, Bell Welch Chandler, Eggeley, Lloyd, Colston, Hicks, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Phelps, Constable, Chambers, of Cecil, Miller, McLane, Bowie, Tuck, Sprigg, McCubbin, Howling, Spencer, Grason, George, Wright, Dirickson, McMaster, Hearn, Fooks, Jacobs, Thomas, Shriver, Johnson, Gaither, Biser, Annan, Sappington, Stephenson, McHenry, Magraw, Nelson, Thawley, Stewart, of Caroline, Hardcastle, Gwinn, Stewart, of Baltimore city, Brent, of Baltimore city, Sherwood, of Baltimore city, Pressman, Ware, Fiery, John Newcomer, Harbine, Michael Newcomer, Kilgour, Brewer, Anderson, Weber, Hollyday, Slice, Fitzpatrick, Parke, Shower, Cockey and Brown—73.

So the Convention refused to accept the substitute.

During the call, when Mr. DENT's name was called, he rose and stated that he voted for this proposition with a desire to prevent a greater evil.

Mr. HOPEWELL moved, as a substitute for the amendment of Mr. FIERY, the following:

"The representation in the House of Delegates shall be as it now is under the Constitution of the State of Maryland, until the year 1860."

In support of which Mr. HOPEWELL proceeded as follows:

Having, Mr. President, but a very short time allowed me by the order of the House, to appeal to gentlemen coming from the smaller counties of the State, to sustain the proposition that I have just had the honor of submitting, and to appeal to those coming from larger and more populous counties. Sir, I would much have preferred to retain my seat during the pendency of the question now under consideration; but, sir, I do not feel at liberty to remain silent. I should be unmindful of the gratitude I owe to the people of my county, did I not make an appeal to gentlemen of this Convention, from the upper section of the State, and the city of Baltimore, to survey for a few moments the history of the past, and ponder upon its teaching, it may in some degree serve to chasten and subdue the rancor of feeling with which old St. Mary's, the mother of counties, and other thinly populous sections of the State are looked upon, our State has undergone won-

derful changes, since the organization of our present Constitution, changes however which have been the natural result of the policy of our legislation. Then the strength and population was on the lower counties of the Eastern and Western shores.

The western part of the State was an almost unexplored region comparatively unsettled. The war of the revolution came on—the colonial dominion was destroyed, and a convention of delegates chosen by the people assembled to form a new Constitution, in the place of the proprietary charter—what course was adopted by this Convention in regard to the distribution of power? Did the lower counties clamour for representation according to population?

No, sir, they looked up to the upper counties as brethren, as co-partners—each entitled to the same weight in the House of Delegates, and they acted accordingly. Circumstances have conspired to change this order of things, the policy of the State, in opening an avenue for the trade of the mighty west in connection with other causes, have completely reversed the state of things, existing at the formation of our present Constitution.

The lower sections have been drained of their population. The upper counties have become thickly settled; and what do they now ask? Forgetful of all the obligation of gratitude—forgetful of their former dependance, and the arm that raised them to power and consequence, they come to us with the arrogance of swollen wealth and boasted superiority; and taunting us with our poverty and distress, demand that the sceptre shall depart from Judah and a law-giver beneath her feet. Is it fair? Is it generous? Is it just?

What have we done, Mr. President, to merit these ungrateful returns? Why is it that gentlemen will attempt to sweep away every vestige of that Constitution, which sheltered them when they were houseless—fed them when they were hungry—clothed them when they were naked.

Seeing that the time allowed me, Mr. President, has nearly expired, I must conclude by alluding to a subject, the notice of which I would gladly avoid. But a sense of duty compels me to advert to it. The Eastern Shore and the lower counties of the Westers, are deeply and vitally interested in the undisturbed protection of their slave property. It is their main dependance for the cultivation of their tobacco and grain, and the slightest attempt to interfere with it by any change, would be fraught with a danger and destruction, the extent of which it is impossible to calculate. Maryland is a frontier State, Pennsylvania a non-slave holding State at her North, and Virginia, a slave holding State at her South. The character of her population partakes of this distinction:—Those inhabiting the upper section where slave labor is not essential to the cultivation of their soil, look with an unfavorable eye upon the institution of negro slavery, and would be glad to see it abolished within the limits of the State, while the lower counties would regard a general emancipation as the most direct evil that