

could be inflicted on them—the certain death blow of their peace and happiness. I believe, sir, that no instant danger on this score is justly to be apprehended, from transferring the sway from where it now is, to the non-slave holding counties of the State. I am proud to believe that there is not a member of this Convention, who would wantonly and unkindly interfere with the institution of slavery, in which the very life of the smaller counties are bound up; but, sir, we are legislating for the future, as well as for the present; for posterity as well as for ourselves, and we know not what a day or an hour may bring forth. There is a wild and fanatic spirit at the North, that derives increased appetite from what it feeds on. It has wealth and talent to aid it in its work of ruin. From an inconsiderable beginning, it has reached an alarming magnitude. The speck that was no larger than a man's hand, has over-preed the whole heavens. Sir, you had as well attempt by human force to dam up the Chesapeake in its onward rush to the ocean, as to say to the tide of fanaticism when once set in motion: "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther." Sir, in a matter of such deep and vital interest, it is prudent to take counsel of our fears, and I implore the slave sections of the State, by every consideration of public good for their domestic peace, to oppose this scheme, which seeks to cut off our arm of strength.

In conclusion, I again earnestly and solemnly protest, on behalf of the people of St. Mary's, against this attempted outrage of their rights; and I do hope there is enough of that spirit of patriotism and mutual love, in which our present Constitution was left to their descendants to save them from its final consummation.

Mr. SOLLERS asked the yeas and nays on agreeing to the amendment, which were ordered, and being taken, resulted as follows:

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Chapman, president, Morgan, Blakistone, Dent, Hopewell, Ricaud, Lee, Chambers, of Kent, Mitchell, Wells, Kent, Weems, Dalrymple, Bond, Sollers, John Dennis, James U. Dennis, Crisfield, Williams, Hicks, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Phelps, Bowie, Sprigg, McCubbin, Bowling, Dirickson, McMaster, Hearn, Fooks, Jacobs, Kilgour and Waters—34.

*Negative*—Messrs. Donaldson, Dorsey, Randall, Sellman, Brent, of Charles, Merrick, Jennifer, Howard, Buchanan, Bell, Welch, Chandler, Ridgely, Lloyd, Colston, Chambers, of Cecil, Miller, McLane, Spencer, Grason, George, Wright, Thomas, Johnson, Shriver, 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, Prestman, Ware, Fiery, Harbine, Michael Newcomer, Brewer, Anderson, Weber, Hollyday, Slicer, Fitzpatrick, Smith, Parke, Shower and Cockey—55.

So the Convention refused to accept the substitute.

Mr. BRENT, of Charles, moved to amend the

amendment of Mr. FIERY, by striking out after the words "United States," these words: "which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, three-fifths of the slaves, and."

Mr. B. said that this would bring the Convention to a test vote upon the question of federal basis. In the remarks which he had had the honor to submit to the Convention some days since, he asserted that he would vote for no proposition which had for its basis federal numbers, and he would now reiterate that assertion. He believed that this basis, in its application to the State of Maryland, would be a mere arbitrary rule, which was unfounded in reason or principle.

Mr. MERRICK asked the yeas and nays on the adoption of the amendment, which were ordered, and being taken, were as follows:

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Chapman, President, Morgan, Blakistone, Dent, Hopewell, Ricaud, Lee, Chambers of Kent, Donaldson, Dorsey, Wells, Randall, Kent, Sellman, Weems, Dalrymple, Bond, Brent of Charles, Merrick, Jennifer, John Dennis, James U. Dennis, Crisfield, Williams, Hicks, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Phelps, Bowie, Tuck, Sprigg, McCubbin, Bowling, Dirickson, McMaster, Hearn, Fooks, Jacobs, Kilgour and Waters—40

*Negative*—Messrs. Howard, Buchanan, Bell, Welch, Chandler, Ridgely, Lloyd, Colston, Constable, Chambers of Cecil, Miller, McLane, Spencer, Grason, George, Wright, 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, Prestman, Ware, Fiery, John Newcomer, Harbine, Michael Newcomer, Brewer, Anderson, Weber, Hollyday, Slicer, Fitzpatrick, Smith, Parke, Shower, Cockey and Brown—51.

So the amendment was rejected.

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

The House of Delegates shall be composed of seventy-five members, to be apportioned among the several counties and city of Baltimore, pursuant to the ratios herein provided, according to their several numbers, as shown by the recent census of the United States, to be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, three-fifths of all other persons, and allowing to each county one additional delegate, for a fraction exceeding one half of the ratio, but each county shall be entitled to at least two delegates. The ratio shall be one delegate to every six thousand inhabitants of the said county and city, until the number of the House of Delegates shall be seventy-two, and thereafter the ratio shall be one to every forty-one thousand inhabitants. Result as follows:

Allegany county four, Anne Arundel county three, Howard county two, Baltimore city ten, Baltimore county seven, Carroll county three,