

induced me to believe that overgrown cities are dangerous to the liberties and free institutions of the countries in which they are situated, and that for the general welfare, limitations ought to be imposed upon their rights and powers, which are inapplicable to the agricultural portions of a State. A diversity of wants and interests in large cities, requires much local or special legislation. And that it may be wise and just, and the interest of all, both within and without the city, may be protected in his opinion dividing the city into districts, each of which should elect a delegate, was indispensable.

He conceived that Baltimore was of such magnitude and importance, that it of itself almost formed a State, or one grand division thereof, and that it was as reasonable and necessary that it should be divided into districts to be severally represented in the House of Delegates, by a distinct delegation as it was that the residue of the State should be divided into counties and similarly represented.

He was desirous of seeing every part and portion of the city fairly and properly represented in the House of Delegates; and if the proposition, or amendment, which he had offered, with the specifications, met with favor, in this Convention he should be gratified. He desired to see Fell's Point properly represented, where he learned, the great mass of the population were Germans, and among them many naturalized citizens, fully competent to fill a seat in this body, or in the Legislature, where their presence and ability would enable them to suggest all such amendments to the legislative enactments as to Baltimore, as were necessary to the interest, welfare, and protection of that part of the community. He was anxious to see the sea-faring portion of the people, as sailors, captains, &c., a useful, hardy, and adventurous class of men—occupying seats in our Legislature. If we did, it would not be for the first time in the State of Maryland, though the day has long since past. The manufacturing interests, too, ought to be represented; and they are a numerous and distinct part of the city of Baltimore, and separated in a great degree from the large and thickly settled portion of it. They are as distinct and diversified in their interests, as is any county on the Eastern Shore, from Frederick or Washington County. He wished to see the merchants represented, and the mechanical interests also. He was proud of Baltimore, when he said, from his own knowledge, that he was perfectly satisfied that as beneficial and useful members of the House of Delegates could be procured from all these different branches of society, as from any other class of persons in the State.

He would like to see the noble and generous hearted Irishman, who enjoys the confidence of his fellow citizens, occupying a seat in the Legislature, where he might be of great service and influence to his countrymen as well by example as otherwise. He had, in former times, seen them and served with them in the Legislature, and he would wish to see them there again. He desired to see a part but not a redundancy of the

delegation to consist of lawyers, because he was satisfied that to wise and judicious legislation, such a commixture was necessary and beneficial. He always desired to see, as they called it in the country, "a sprinkling of lawyers" elected to the Legislature; notwithstanding he had heard that in olden times one of the best Legislatures Maryland ever had, judging from its enactments, was designated as the "shoe string Legislature," on account of there being no lawyer in it. But, so far as his observation went, it was indispensably necessary to have a portion of lawyers representing the city of Baltimore; yet, Mr. President, its citizens should bear in mind that there may be too much of a good ingredient in any admixture. He wanted all the meritorious classes of the community represented in the Legislature; if we had, we would have a much better municipal government in Baltimore, a far more efficient and conservative police. The Germans in the eastern parts of the city know what takes place there, and he was inclined to believe, that if an intelligent naturalized German had been in this Convention when an effort was made for the prevention of bribery and corruption, to postpone for one or even six months the exercise of political rights now immediately consequent upon naturalization, that he would have sustained the postponement not only as necessary to the public weal, but as a means of rescuing his ignorant and unsuspecting countrymen from the disgrace about to be brought upon them by the machinations of interested, unscrupulous electioneering politicians.

He could have told us what scenes sometimes take place in his ward, of which we are not informed. He could have told us of a particular tavern keeper at Fell's Point, who at every warmly contested election, is in the habit of appearing at the polls, with from one to three hundred sets of naturalization papers in his possession, which according to a previous arrangement, he distributes one by one, among his countrymen, made citizens but a day or two before, exempt from all expense incident to naturalization, upon condition that at the approaching election they would go to the polls, vote the ballot given them, and as a consideration for so doing, receive their naturalization papers gratis.

By districting the city, the foul and horrible system of cooping, as it is called, would be discontinued; success in an election in a particular district, would not furnish a sufficient motive for its continuance. We should also escape those frequent and disgraceful riots among the different fire companies. They are produced, not by persons living generally throughout the city, but only in particular parts of it. We should then have had in the Legislature a sufficient number of delegates from Baltimore, who would not have given countenance to them in any way, as is the result of the city delegation refusing to suggest and affect in the Legislature the adoption of such measures as are adequate to their suppression. They are a disgrace to the city, and ought to be checked by some legislative action.