

a population of a little over 100,000 in the Eastern Shore district, whilst Baltimore city and the counties on the bay shore and the Potomac, composing another district, had a population of 278,000.

This inequality in the population of the several districts, was in itself a serious objection to the present arrangement of our gubernatorial district, but it was not the chief objection that could be urged. If the State was to be divided, the several districts ought to have in them, as far as possible, a homogeneous population. They should not connect a commercial with an agricultural community; and they ought not to connect Baltimore city with the counties below. It was obvious that this ought not to be the arrangement. Any gentleman who aspired to the office of Governor, ought to aspire to the office because he was true to the district for which he was to be chosen, and faithful in his wish to promote its interests. And, when they made such a combination of Baltimore city and the counties on the bay shore, they necessarily placed temptations in the path of men who were aspirants for the office of chief magistrate, and might make them subservient to the interests that predominated in the several districts. And if not disposed to yield to this temptation, they would fall victims to their fidelity to that minority interest, which, from a sense of duty, they felt called upon to sustain. He would propose, therefore, a separation of the district composed of Baltimore and the lower counties, both on account of its large amount of population and of the conflicting commercial and agricultural pursuits of the inhabitants within its confines.

To illustrate the effects of that combination, we have but to advert to the effect of the agitating questions of the present day, and the struggle for political power that was now going on. Now, was it fair to place gentlemen in the counties connected with Baltimore, in a position less independent than that of gentlemen in other counties who may aspire to the office of Governor of Maryland? Would this Convention place them in a predicament to make themselves so odious, by opposing the demands of that city on this subject of representation, that they could never hope for a nomination to that office?

And take the converse of that proposition, would you make a man dependent for political preferment in this district, on the counties to which he might make his name odious because he was faithful to the interests of the large emporium? If we are to consult sectional interests, he maintained that the connection was an undesirable and unnatural one. Gentlemen may say that the time would be too long before the Eastern Shore district would be gratified by having the candidate for Governor, since we have made the gubernatorial term four years. That objection could be obviated by holding the election for Governor once in two years. The office would, hereafter, if we distribute its present patronage, be sought by those who desire to have the high compliment of receiving a majority of the votes of the people of Maryland as an evidence of their respect and regard. It could not be looked to

as a position from which one class of men could be expelled and another class promoted to office. He had no desire to discuss a question of this kind more at large, and therefore he would leave it to the Convention to dispose of as they thought proper.

Mr. DORSEY said that at a very early period of the session, he made some calculations of the gubernatorial districts of the State, and had submitted his views thereon to the gentleman from Charles, (Mr. Jenifer,) and he preferred those views, as far as they differed from it, to the plan proposed by the gentleman from Charles. He thought the Eastern Shore had suffered enough already by changes in our Constitution, and as they are a peculiar people, "zealous of good works," they ought not in gubernatorially districting the State, to be mixed up with the counties of the Western Shore. He was opposed to adding to the Eastern Shore, and he was for laying off the districts on the Western Shore in a more compact way, and with a just regard to members. He would, in laying off the Western Shore gubernatorial districts, give Baltimore and the several counties their just weight, in proportion to their population, and in districting the State, this principle should not be violated, that there should be some regard to locality, contiguity, unity of interests and sympathy existing between the component parts of the same district. He conceived that we ought not to separate the parent from the child—Baltimore county from Baltimore city. They seemed inseparable, judging by the proceedings of this Convention.

Under the last census, the gubernatorial districts on this shore must be re-cast. Baltimore city and county ought not to be separated. The population of the two Western Shore districts should approach equality as near as it could be conveniently effected. Those districts ought to be as compact as may be, taking care that the interests of the several parts should harmonize as far as practicable.

He thought his proposition better than the one under consideration, which sought to separate Harford from Baltimore city and county. To equalize the districts in respect to their population as nearly as it could be done, he proposed that Baltimore city and Baltimore and Harford counties together, with a population of 229,966, should constitute the third district, and the rest of the Western Shore counties, with a population of about 225,000 should constitute the second district. He was opposed to dividing the State into four districts. It might interfere with, or rather defeat the selection of the best candidate for Governor, and create too great delay in the choice of the executive from the several districts.

Mr. THOMAS rose to explain, and remarked that his desire had been to set apart the city of Baltimore to itself, because it has a commercial community, and had peculiar interests. If this be done, we cannot make, of the residue of the Western Shore of Maryland, one district, without doing injustice, as it would contain a population much greater than Baltimore or the