

Eastern Shore. To equal the district, and make Baltimore one of them, we must have four districts instead of three. He did not perceive how any party purpose could be subserved by dividing the State into four districts instead of three. It was not proposed to give to the people of any one district a right to elect the Governor. The candidates to be nominated were both to reside in the same, but they were to be elected by a majority of all the qualified voters of the State.

Mr. DORSEY said, if the gentleman had heard him out, he would not have found it necessary to make any explanation. He (Mr. D.) did not mean to contradict what the gentleman said—that he in his proceedings in this Convention would be influenced by no party political motives—but he would say that the division of an election district furnished so good an opportunity and so great a temptation corruptly to perpetrate unjust political objects, that he was unwilling to furnish an occasion for such a perpetration but from unavoidable necessity; and it could not be pretended that any such necessity at present existed.

The gentleman said he could not see how; but he (Mr. D.) thought he could easily demonstrate it; and it seemed to have entered into the combination of the arrangement made in 1836. Baltimore, the gentleman said, would have the largest population of any gubernatorial district; and he (Mr. D.) would say, that as the population now stands, gross injustice was done to the Baltimore district, including the six lower counties attached to it. That district now contained a population of upwards of 278,000, whilst the other Western Shore gubernatorial district contained but about 176,000—a case of crying injustice since 1836, when it was settled by our constitution that the Governor was the representative of popular numbers only.

After a few remarks by Mr. THOMAS,

Mr. DORSEY said, he did before. He perfectly understood the gentleman that Baltimore was the great commercial emporium of Maryland—that her interests were separate and distinct. Now, his [Mr. D's] opinion was, that Baltimore was connected with a large portion of Maryland, and that the interests of those counties were so inseparably connected that they depend more upon Baltimore than Baltimore did upon them. He thought that a portion of Baltimore city was so connected with Harford, that the proper division would be to put Baltimore city and county and Harford into the Baltimore district, and by that means a better division could be made between the Eastern and the Western Shores, upon the three districts system, than by the adoption of any other plan. There existed so much sympathy between them, and their interests were so identified, that no objection, he apprehended, could be made on that score. The population in that district would then be 229,966. As it now stood, one district contained 176,078, and the other 278,271 inhabitants, which he thought a very unjust division of the city of Baltimore and the counties. It was unjust to them, because if the laying off of Gubernatorial districts had any

object or principle in it, it meant that those districts should be, as nearly as may be, of equal population. He, therefore, looked around to see how an equalization of the population was attainable. He saw what would make a most compact and beautiful district, with the strongest social and political ties and unity of interests, and that was by uniting Harford county to the city and county of Baltimore, thus forming the third Gubernatorial district. All the other counties on the Western Shore, which together contain a population of about 225,000, would compose the second district. This arrangement would form the most natural and convenient division of the population of the Western Shore that could be made, and approximated as nearly to a perfect equalization of the districts on the basis of population as could be obtained or made essentially desirable.

An exact equality they could not get, unless by gerrymandering the counties. It appeared to him that this was a just and reasonable proposition, and ought to be adopted. It then gave the Eastern Shore an opportunity of having a Governor from that shore. It gave, also, to Baltimore and Baltimore county and Harford county, so inseparably connected, a right to a Governor; and it gave to all the other counties, with a population that amounted to, as near as may be, 225,000, the right to have a Governor taken from amongst them. He had stated why he was unwilling that Baltimore city and county should be separated. He did not put Baltimore with the western counties, for this reason: because it had a large number of such distinguished and eminent citizens who were qualified to fill the Gubernatorial chair, that the counties could not enter into the competition with it; and if common rumors were true—he personally having no knowledge—that a number of gentlemen had, for some years past, been colonized in Baltimore county, just over the city limits; not with a view to a permanent residence there, but for the purpose of acquiring such a residence for the time being as would render them eligible to the office of Governor. The persons so removing continuing the transaction in the city of all their business as if no such removal had never taken place, all their interests remaining as much identified with Baltimore as before their change of residence. Such colonization, as it is called, is certainly an indirect and covert fraud upon the Constitution, and would be effectually put an end to, by the arrangement proposed for the Baltimore district. By tolerating its existence, the city of Baltimore might in substance, though not in form, always from its own citizens elect the Governor for both the Western Shore districts. By the division of districts, as proposed by him, justice would be done to the rest of the counties, and doubtless they would be much better satisfied if placed in a district by themselves.

From the prompt and impassioned manner in which the gentleman from Baltimore county had replied to his remarks as to Gubernatorial aspirants, though the fact was unknown to him before, but for the positive disclaimer of the gentleman, he should have suspected him of having indulged