

some such aspirations. He [Mr. D.] designed to make no insinuation as to the object intended, by keeping the districts in their present unjust and unequal apportionment; and whether such was the object intended, or not, he could not pretend to say. But the effect unquestionably would be unjustly to give a great preponderance to the Democratic party, and, in effect, gerrymandering the Western Shore for that purpose. The intention did not change the effects of the means adopted, and these he wished to obviate. If the western counties of the State were left to themselves, no party design would be carried out, (and he had not made any calculation as to which party would preponderate, and he did not know.) He thought it fair and just that those counties should be left to themselves in this matter.

For these reasons, after making these calculations, he had proposed his present plan and tendered it to his friend on the right (Mr. Jenifer,) who had made some modifications in it. He (Mr. D.) therefore proposed as a substitute for the amendment of the gentleman from Charles, that the State should be divided into three gubernatorial districts, and that Baltimore city and county, and Harford be one district, so that the Western counties would all have a fair opportunity of presenting their candidate for Governor. And, he thought that the Western counties would have a much better opportunity of fairly competing for the man of their choice than they would have if attached to the city or county of Baltimore. He had no reasons on political grounds, to urge his proposition, for having made no calculations, he was as to results, now, completely in the dark. It was said it made no difference in what district Baltimore city and county were embraced, as the weight of both would be equally felt at the election. He admitted, if the election went to the people without a caucus nomination, then it would make no difference, except as to the located residence of the candidate. But, if there was a caucus nomination, it would make a considerable difference whether you were in particular interests, or whether you were an independent candidate representing the whole State. He was opposed to all party caucuses on the subject; but it appeared to him that to divide the State in the manner proposed into four districts, and with no intention to have political effect, the irresistible and necessary consequence would be to create that impression. And, therefore, this Convention ought to avoid it, and especially as their action on this subject not only affected the Governor's election, but in looking over the report of the Committee on the Judiciary, he there found that the three Judges of the Court of Appeals were to be residents of those districts, and were to be severally elected by the qualified voters residing therein.

And therefore, it would be unjust and unreasonable, for the mere purpose of party, to permit the districts to remain in the unreasonable and unnatural state that they now were. He thought that they ought to be divided in the manner he had proposed. He had made the districts in respect to population, &c. as equal as possible, and con-

sequently he thought the districts he offered was a fair and liberal one, and ought to be adopted.

Mr. BUCHANAN said he could not imagine to whom the honorable member from Anne Arundel, (Mr. Dorsey,) referred. When he spoke of certain persons crossing the "imaginary line," which separates the city from the county of Baltimore, for purposes of ambition. Some of the members of the Convention had suggested to him, (Mr. B.) that they thought perhaps he might have meant to include him among the number. This certainly (said Mr. B.) is an error. He can have no allusion to me. I come within no such category.

"Let the galled jade wince,
My withers are unwrung."

Mr. DORSEY. Oh, I never meant him! (Laughter.)

Mr. BUCHANAN continuing. I knew it—I knew it, Mr. President!! I was sure that I came not within the scope of the honorable member's vision in this connection at least. (Laughter.)

But whom did he mean? (said Mr. B.) That enlightened gentleman is not in the habit of speaking without point or purpose.

He means something—somebody. Who is it? What is it? Let us have light!

It may be of no importance, (said Mr. B.) and perhaps not in the best of taste that I should refer to myself, but I think I may venture to remark, that no one in this body better knows *my origin* than does the distinguished and venerable member from Anne Arundel, (Mr. Dorsey) himself.

Sir, (said Mr. B.) *I was born across the so-called "imaginary line,"* and on the soil of the County of Baltimore—the days of my childhood were spent—and there much of my after life. Her people are endeared to me by every tie which can sanctify the memory of favors conferred. They took me with their confidence when little more than a boy, and proclaimed me oftener than once the representative of their interests on the floor of this hall. Sir, (said Mr. B.) where the days of my childhood were passed, I still abide. The bones of my forefathers moulder on the soil which gave birth to me. At this very hour I may stand in the door of the edifice in which I live, and look down upon the graves of my parents and of my children.

"Others may choose a distant sky,
That County shall to me supply
A cradle—and a grave!"

Mr. THOMAS did not suppose that he could have been provoked to say one word more on the present occasion, but really the gentleman from the county of Anne Arundel had persisted so pertinaciously in misconstruing his proposition, that he must say a few words in reply. There may have been a day when the gentleman might have been excused for suspecting that every movement he made in a public body had for its object, exclusively, a party interest to subserve. If he had felt such a devotion to party, certainly experience and the snows of fifty winters had, at least, so far cooled his brain, that he did not now believe that