

dissatisfied with their representatives—it would work evil rather than good, and they could make it assume no shape in which it could obtain his vote.

Mr. DAVIS said, that he had alluded to the proceedings of a meeting held in Baltimore city, when this subject was under consideration in the Legislature. It seemed that the meeting was called by Jesse Hunt, Mayor of Baltimore, and from the names appended to the proceedings of the meeting, he had no doubt it was highly respectable and large. The preamble offered by Mr. McMahon, to the resolutions adopted by the meeting, was in these words :

“Whereas, The House of Delegates in the General Assembly of Maryland; have passed a bill providing for the prompt completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to Cumberland, and the completion of the Baltimore and Susquehanna railroad to York in Pennsylvania, upon terms highly beneficial to the companies incorporated to construct those works, and is every way advantageous to the people of Maryland, and whereas this meeting regard the early completion of these improvements as truly necessary to the prosperity of this city and State, and also because the said bill wisely provides an ample fund, without taxation, for the support of public schools throughout this State, and the universal education of those who will control our destinies, and upon whose intelligence the welfare and safety of the State must ever depend—therefore,” &c.

The law had then passed the House of Delegates, and was pending before the Senate and the people seemed to apprehend that it would not pass that body.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city. What does the gentleman cite this for?

Mr. DAVIS. To show that the city of Baltimore made an expression of opinion upon the subject.

Mr. BRENT. I suppose they wanted a share of the eight millions

Mr. DAVIS. This occurred long before the eight millions bill was agitated.

Mr. HOWARD desired to say a word in explanation of the vote he intended to give against the proposition, as it placed him in an awkward position. In the first place he would vote against it, because he thought it was entirely unnecessary to put any thing in the Constitution on this subject; and, in the next place, he would vote against it, because it would do more than any thing else to endanger the popular vote in favor of the Constitution. If they should go on as they were now doing, they might as well provide for a session of the Legislature to be held ten years hence, because they were now doing all the work which properly devolved upon the Legislature; thus taking business out of their hands. They were disputing now about the school fund. Where could they find a source of greater dissension to spread among the people of the State than this? The people would not understand the matter as they did; they would not understand what had been said by the gentleman from Prince George's, which he believed was perfectly accu-

rate, that this was a compromise. If this was so, he was willing to stand by it; he did not wish to disturb it. They had compromises enough to make without disturbing this one, adopted by their predecessors.

Let the subject go before the Legislature, and let it be settled there. He concurred with the gentleman from Carroll, that the small counties would have abundant power to protect themselves there. Coming from a large county, he, [Mr. H.] did not think it proper to interfere with a compromise.

There had been no complaint in relation to the distribution of the fund, and upon these grounds—that it would be the most fruitful source of evil they could plant, and that it would do more to endanger the adoption of the Constitution—he would go against the adoption of the proposition in any manner whatever.

Mr. CHAMBERS said he must protest, utterly protest against the assumption made by gentlemen here, that there was no right in the counties to an equal distribution of at least a portion of this fund. Gentlemen were so much impressed with the towering importance of their constituency, the wealth, the population and political importance of the new counties, and the imposing allusion to their 160,000 in one place and 40,000 in another of those “whom they had the honor to represent,” that they had forgotten the block from which they were hewn—the stump from which they had grown. One could suppose it a fact, yielded, admitted, not to be denied by any man, that this fund should go according to population, or that every moral and political principle must be violated. Now, sir, I dare to say, there can be no greater error than this. It is true, sir, that Baltimore city has her 160,000 and Frederick and Baltimore counties their 40,000, and Carroll and Washington their growing and rapidly growing approach to this number, but yet there are some things that occurred in the State of Maryland quite a considerable time before this was the case. Amongst other things which existed before those parts of the State had assumed any considerable importance for numbers or influence, was a certain fund belonging to the State. Since the commencement of this debate I have sent to the library for some of the earliest journals of the Legislature, from which to furnish evidence of its origin and amount, but we are fast losing all recollection or knowledge of old things, as I fear we have actually lost most of our respect for whatever has any age.

Mr. RANDALL. I have here, at your service, the Treasurer's report of the state of the funds in 1812.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I will make it answer my purpose. He then read to the Convention an account of sundry items of stock to a large amount, which were the proceeds of English bank stock. Now, sir, said Mr. C., this English bank stock was the property of the good people of the State, obtained and owned by them without the contribution of one dollar from Carroll county, for that county was then amongst the nonentities.