Pennsylvania has adopted the basis of taxable inhabitants, which while I do not approve, would equally entitle Baltimore city and Western Maryland, to the same or a greater proportion of political influence than if we assume the basis of numbers. Every Southern State has at least, in the lower or popular branch of the Legislature, recognised population alone, or population and taxation together, as the true basis of representation, and so with the Western States.

The quotation of the gentleman from Allegany, from the Constitution of Louisiana, is unfortunate, as it expressly recognises population as the exclusive basis for the lower house.

Here Mr. WEBER called Mr. BRENT's attention to the fifteenth and sixteenth articles of the Constitution of Louisiana, in reference to the ratio for the Senate, and

Mr. BRENT remarked, that even if the principle were not applied to the Senate of Louisiana, it was immaterial, as it was adopted for the other branch of the Legislature, which is what I am now claiming; but I disagree with the construction placed on these articles, even in regard to the Senate; because the deduction of the population of New Orleans, from that of the whole State, and the division of the remainder by twenty-eight, is only to find a ratio for senatorial districts, and New Orleans being districted like the rest of the State into parishes, there is, as I understand it, no exclusion of New Orleans, from equal representation in the Senate; but let that pass, even if it were so in the Senate. If other Constitutions are to be looked to, the preponderance of authority in favor of my principle is both overwhelming and immense.

Mr. PRESSTMAN. Do I understand my friend to say that upon examination of the Constitution of the Southern States, he has discovered that the basis in the House of Delegates is population, or, where that does not apply, population and taxation?

Mr. BRENT. I am not denying the federal basis.

Mr. PRESSTMAN. I desire you to say whether you will state, that upon examination you find the basis in any southern state is population alone, or, where it is not that, population and taxation.

Mr. BRENT. I will give my friend the data upon which I make my statement, (here Mr. B read his data.) If there is error you can point it out.

Mr. PRESSTMAN. White population, to the exclusion of negroes, is the basis in all the southern States, except in North Carolina and South Carolina, in which latter State the basis is white population and taxation combined. The gentleman from Kent is mistaken in supposing that a federal basis has been assumed in the southern States. On the contrary, the white basis has been taken in all the southern States, except in the two instances enumerated. I read from the Constitution of South Carolina, to show that in that State the white basis is the only basis except so far as it is connected with taxation.

Mr BRENT resumed. My friend, with all deference, does not appreciate the point—he is discussing the question of white and federal basis,

while I am not touching upon such an enquiry, but am showing that population, (whether on the white or federal basis is immaterial) is the basis, or population and taxation together, the basis in all the southern States for at least the lower branch of the Legislature.

I call then upon the counties to say what more constitutional guarantees against oppression they require. Although the oppression would be fanciful, name your guarantee in the Constitution, and so far as my vote is concerned you shall have it; but do not deny us equal justice in your legislative halls. My friend from St. Mary's, (Mr. Blakistone,) classes me at the head of all the Reformers, because I am opposed to all compromise—he does me undeserved honor.

I am an advocate for a fair, just, and liberal compromise, which I wish to effect by leaving territory predominant in the Senate, while population has its full rights in the House of Delegates. Although I consider the people equally entitled to wield the power of the Senate, yet for the sake of compromise now, I will agree to such an equitable arrangement because it has some principle in it; but when I am asked to leave the Senate as it is, and still make a compromise in the House of Delegates, by curtailing the rights of the people there, I at once reject it, as no compromise at all. Nay, rather than take the proposition of Mr. FIERY, I would retain the present basis, because I do not wish it to be said that there has been a compromise, when I regard it as nothing in principle or substance; and I believe that if the present basis of inequality and injustice continues, it will be more certain to bring about speedier justice, than this hollow and unsubstantial thing would lead to, which is called the Washington county compromise, and which I regard as virtually continuing the vassalage of Baltimore city to arbitrary power, and continuing it too, on a more odious ground than the present Constitution places it, because now the whole thing is arbitrary for town and country, while this Washington county compromise seeks to engraft on the Constitution an invidious discrimination of a principle adopted for the counties, but denied to Baltimore city. The gentleman from St. Mary's, [Mr. Blakistone] has referred to the Club of Hercules, as flourished in the Baltimore Argus—meaning the Executive patronage.

I can only say, that I shall vote to strip the Executive of all his important patronage, but when I do that, I am giving up on the altar of patriotism a great element of political strength. Is it too much to say that I first wish to see what sort of a compromise party spirit will make here on this question of representation, and what sort of a Constitution you will make in other respects? If the unholy hands of party are to fashion this Constitution for party purposes, I shall for one oppose it at all times; though I shall first look to its merits or demerits as a whole.

Mr. BLAKISTONE said, that in the remarks which he made on Saturday, he alluded to an article published in a Baltimore paper, where the expression was used, "that the Executive patronage