

and a modification, arbitrary to some extent, must be made.

Mr. C. regretted he could not have the aid of his friend from Prince George's, (Mr. Tuck.) He did not complain that the gentleman consulted the feelings and opinions of his particular constituency, but he thought while consulting the wishes of the people, we should still keep an eye to what is right in itself, and he most certainly believed it was in itself right and proper, and therefore, the duty of the Convention to district the city of Baltimore. He should, therefore, endeavor to effect that alone, but failing in that he should go for also districting those counties which will be entitled to three or more delegates.

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Mr. C. said, provision had already been made for such cases in the bill which was before us on that subject. The voter must reside six months in that part of the county in which he offers to vote, but does not lose his residence in one part of the county until he gains it in another.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

Remarks of Mr. Chambers, same date.

Mr. CHAMBERS. The purpose which I intended in making this motion was, first, to propose a reduction of the number of delegates allowed to the city of Baltimore. By the present bill, the city of Baltimore will be entitled to ten delegates. I do not mean to repeat the reasons which have been so often urged, why neither the interests of Baltimore, or of any other part of the State, require this enlargement of their number. I have only to say, that so far as I have been able to observe what is the public sentiment, I am convinced that out of the city of Baltimore, the measure has not received commendation, and that within the city of Baltimore, it is not approved by a very large number of its inhabitants.

Another object is to enlarge the delegation from the counties of Charles and Montgomery. It will be found, by reference to the tables, that Charles county, with a population of 16,162, is allowed two delegates. Cecil county, with a population of 18,932, and Harford county, with 19,355, are each allowed 3 delegates. Montgomery, with a population of 15,860, has two delegates. This is not based upon any principle, but is an arbitrary and gratuitous assignment of members. Allegany county, with a population of 22,872, has a delegation of four; while Charles county, with more than 16,000, has but two. Does not that strike every man's sense of justice as being at variance with the respective claims of those counties. I do not wish to disturb the allowance made to Allegany county, but is it proper, in connection with it, to allow a county within 6 or 7000 in population, only one-half the number.

I will state further, for I wish the whole scheme in my mind to be developed, should the convention decline to reduce the number of delegates for the city of Baltimore, I shall certainly renew the

attempt to district that city. The number of votes, and the character of the votes given in the city of Baltimore, are familiar to every one. It is not necessary at all to my argument, that the parties in that city should be so equally balanced as to render the result of any election uncertain; but it cannot be denied that there is a very large number of voters who are not represented in their political feelings in the Legislature, and who, according to this arrangement, never will be.

In a population of 170,000, when nearly one-half of the people are unrepresented, it is a very strong consideration to afford this immense mass of people an opportunity of expressing their political opinions. I suppose it is conceded that the Constitution is not made for the exclusive purpose of gratifying the majority; or in other words, that minorities have some rights, and that to enforce those rights, or at least to make them known, they are entitled to a representation in the counsels of the State. Under the present arrangement, such a result is hopeless. Is it right that it should be? I think not. There are distinct interests in Baltimore city, in other matters as well as politics. Every principle which leads to the separation of the population of the State in counties, would seem to lead to a separation of the different portions of this immense mass of population, falling but little short of 170,000. This is so manifestly right that the city of Baltimore itself, acting according to its own sense of justice, has adopted this very principle, electing by wards, and not by general ticket. Without enlarging upon these views, which I suppose are fully comprehended and fully appreciated, I merely announce these as the general reasons why I shall be obliged to adopt this course, if driven to it by the necessity of retaining the present number of representatives.

I have no desire to consume the time of the Convention, which is exceedingly precious, and I forbear to multiply remarks, believing that the Convention have a full, entire and comprehensive view of this subject. But although not disposed to provoke debate, I shall be the last to shrink from it, if debate be considered necessary.

Remarks of Mr. Chambers, same date.

Mr. CHAMBERS. Unless some other gentleman wishes to speak, I have a few words to say before the vote is taken. I regret exceedingly to hear the sentiments avowed by gentlemen whose aid I had expected. I think I had a right to suppose that gentlemen who imagined the present scheme iniquitous, would not withhold their votes to allow the Convention an opportunity to make it less so. We have been told by the gentleman from Baltimore city that he regards this bill, as adopted by the Convention, as utterly in violation of every claim which could be made by his constituents, sanctioned by principles of political propriety. It is a scheme against which all his exertions have been levelled. I maintain that neither the late hour of the session, nor any other fact can justify this Convention, or any individual in this Convention, in doing an act of injustice. It is the duty of every man and every