

wants of their own sections, if they were willing to allow us to judge of what was necessary for our people; and that was the only way in which we could make the judiciary acceptable to the people of the State. I was not of those who thought it necessary to have one judge in each county. I supposed there were some counties that would require one judge, and that the smaller counties might be districted in such a way as to have no district composed of more than two counties. But gentlemen in other portions of the State seem to think that they know better what is necessary and proper for us than we do ourselves. The Convention has determined that we shall not have the system we preferred. We have over and over again repeated, that the proposed system would be onerous to us, and impracticable, as well as inconvenient to the people. Time and again we have appealed to the Convention not to force this arrangement upon our portion of the State—not to judge of our necessities by their own condition. I supposed that the members of the bar were best qualified to perfect a judiciary system. In this it seems I am mistaken. Our efforts have been met with the very charitable objection, "the lawyers are making places for themselves." If the profession had abandoned the work, as soon as this suspicion was uttered, to be perfected by those who "are wise in their own conceits," the people might have been called on at the polls to contemplate a monument of the rarest folly. But amidst difficulties and embarrassments the thing has assumed its present shape. The delegates for Baltimore city have aided in thus moulding it; and now they call upon the counties whose voice has not been regarded by them, to give Baltimore another judge. They have determined for us what is necessary for our people. I shall take the liberty of forming my own opinion as to their wants, and not perceiving any absolute necessity for the measure, I shall not move from the position I have taken. If the Baltimore delegates say that that city requires another court I shall not disbelieve them, but I shall expect them to give the same credence to our representations as to our section, and to act accordingly, before I gratify their demand. We have said that the law and equity cases in our district will be too much for the attention of a single judge—situated as our counties are, with no public conveyances, and covering a large extent of country—and especially if the clause abolishing the Chancery court be retained. We again appeal to gentlemen not to force this arrangement upon. But if this must be, and gentlemen from other sections will not come forward in a spirit of justice to sustain us in obtaining what we declare to be necessary for our interests, they cannot complain if we vote to retain the article in its present form. We would do justice to all portions of the State, but we ask the same, and cannot agree to take less for ourselves.

Mr. SOLLERS. I understand that the proposition is to give to the city of Baltimore an additional number of judges. What reason is there in this, except in that principle which has been

manifested here from the very commencement of the session to the present day—the all grasping, all absorbing notions of the city of Baltimore to appropriate to itself the whole political and judicial power of the State? Talk to me of the business of the city of Baltimore! Will this Convention allow me to give them some statistics? I can give them correctly from my own county, for I occupy the humble position of Clerk. In 1844, I was appointed, under the broad seal of the State, signed by my friend Gov. Thomas, a most distinguished honor—a whig for the first time obtaining office under a locofoco Governor. [Laughter.]

In the spring of 1844, the appearance docket of Calvert county court was four hundred and sixty cases. I will swear to the exact number, for I never shall forget it as long as I live. The docket was two hundred and eighty cases. In the spring of 1845, the appearance docket was over five hundred cases, and the trial docket upwards of three hundred and sixty cases; and from that time and during the time I have been clerk, (I think I say it with great truth—I know I do not exaggerate,) the appearance docket has averaged between three and four hundred cases, and the trial docket between two hundred or two hundred and fifty. His honor, Judge DORSEY, I think, will testify to the fact.

I undertake to affirm one fact—that the docket in our county court is larger than the docket in Baltimore county court, and yet the gentleman from Baltimore city thinks they ought to have an additional judge for his city. I am only speaking for the smaller portion of our district.

According to the plan proposed, it is to be composed of four counties. I take the single county of Calvert, and undertake to affirm that there is as much business to be done in that single county as in the Baltimore county court. I wish the Convention to understand, and I wish the counties to understand another thing—it is only in that miserable, horrible spirit of grasping for power in the State that this proposition is made, and I trust it will be resisted.

Mr. RANDALL. I do not like to trespass upon the time of the House, in its present feverish impatience to hasten through this important and I fear much to be neglected duty; but as I represent a people who are most seriously injured by the proposed judiciary system, I shall be pardoned in again making their grievances known, and comparing the provision you have made for them in the judicial district, with what has been done for the city of Baltimore, and is now so much complained of by her delegates. If Baltimore delegates continue to complain of the operation of this system upon their people, how much greater are our causes of complaint against it? It has been said by way of complaint against us by one of the delegates of the city of Baltimore, that this Convention has already determined against the continuance of the Chancery Court, and that the opposition here, to the amendment he proposes for the relief of Baltimore comes from those who wish that court to be continued. It may be so. Is it not proper that it should be so? We com-