

before, that other gentlemen can arrange their districts as they desire.

Mr. BUCHANAN. Then we will have to remodel our district.

Mr. TOOK. I have always said, that it was not competent for a man living on the Eastern Shore to know the wants of the people of the Western Shore, and that we had better apply to gentlemen from different sections, who can tell us better than we can guess at, what is necessary. If we can remodel the system advantageously, let us do so. Why talk of expense when the most important interest of the people are at stake? I am sure, a cheap judiciary is the worst thing we can get. It would be dear at any price. I move to postpone the whole subject until to-morrow, and in the mean time, we can endeavor to arrange some plan that will be satisfactory to both the city of Baltimore and the counties.

Mr. BUCHANAN. I do not doubt that our friends from the city of Baltimore have cause to complain at the apportionment of judicial labors—but if they have cause to complain, others have cause likewise, and none more than the people comprising the judicial district, of which Baltimore county forms a part.

I am willing, nay I am anxious to see full, ample justice done to the city of Baltimore, in this matter of the judiciary, as well as in all other matters—but at the same time, that I am disposed to see justice done to the city. I am equally disposed to resist the withholding of it from the county.

I am of opinion, Mr. President, that two civil judges are not sufficient to perform the judicial labors of the large and increasing city of Baltimore—but it is said with some confidence that one judge is sufficient to perform all the judicial labor, (embracing the trial of criminal causes,) of three counties, one of which (Baltimore county,) is the largest in the State. Now, all I have to say on this subject is, if one judge is sufficient to perform all the duties of this populous judicial district, then two civil judges would be enough for the city of Baltimore. But this is not the case. One judge is not enough for the county district, nor are two judges sufficient for the city of Baltimore.

Let me call the attention of my friends from the city, to the situation of the large district from which I come, and to invoke their aid. It is known that the district (which for want of a more convenient term at present) I have designated as the Baltimore county district, is composed of Baltimore county, of Harford county, and of Cecil county, containing a population of near 80,000.

The adjoining district is composed of Carroll and Frederick counties, and the district adjoining that of Washington and Allegany. Now, the Baltimore county district, contains a population nearly as large as both of these districts, and we have one judge, while they have two. This I consider gross inequality and injustice, and of this I complain. Others complain, and I think have good cause of complaint. My friend

from Anne Arundel, [Mr. Randall,] complains that his district is too large. My friend from Prince George's, [Mr. Bowie,] complains that his district is too large. So our friends from the city perceive they are not the only ones who complain.

The plain truth is, these judicial districts are badly arranged. It would have been much better to have had one judge for each of the large counties of the State. And then, you would have had justice promptly administered. It is bad policy to put too much labor on one judge. We should retrace our steps and remodel the districts.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I was opposed to the present judicial system as arranged, and voted for the proposition of the gentlemen from Prince George's, (Mr. Bowie,) when he offered his amendment to the first bill providing for thirteen judicial districts, Allegany constituting one of the thirteen.

I have received letters from gentlemen of the bar of Allegany, declaring their unequivocal hostility to any constitution that will not relieve them from their present difficulties. Allegany requires a judge and quarterly courts, to enable the people to have prompt and speedy justice. I have a statement of facts before me, (returns from the clerks of the counties of the State shewing the number of civil suits on their respective dockets,) shewing the amount of civil business in the respective districts as arranged by this Convention, throughout the State. I find from it Allegany and Washington for the last several years, have averaged seven hundred and forty-two cases a year, that it will have a larger docket than any district in the State; that our judge will have more duty to perform than a judge in the city of Baltimore. The civil docket in Baltimore city is one thousand three hundred and thirty-two divided into two courts, averaging six hundred and sixty-six cases to a court—seventy-two cases less than our district. Our judge has criminal jurisdiction. Baltimore city has a separate criminal court. Now, why all this clamor from Baltimore? Why these extraordinary efforts to get a reconsideration? Why the threats that Baltimore is a unit upon that subject? With this statistical information before the Convention, we find one of the city delegates moving to add Frederick to the Allegany circuit, (folio 639 Journal,) and every gentleman from the city in Convention at the time, voting for it. I am no lawyer, Mr. President, and yet I know we have anything but speedy justice in our judicial district as at present, and the new Constitution leave us in a worse condition than the old one, as one of our counties must always be without a judge. Now, we have one for each county. Our business is increasing upon the docket. Our criminal business is very large. One of our terms is limited, and a very small share of business is done at the short term. It will be utterly impossible to get along under such a system. Why is it that the gentlemen from Baltimore city are willing to impose upon us more than we can do, and more than they have to do; and while they are urging another judge