

three, Talbot county two, Washington county three, and Worcester county two.

Several members. "Question," "question."

Mr. Biser moved a call of the House, Which was ordered.

And the roll having been called,

On motion of Mr. DIRICKSON,

Further proceedings thereon were suspended.

Mr. JACOBS rose and said:

Mr. President:—Up to the present moment, I have been almost a silent, though an attentive observer of the proceedings of this Convention. Unaccustomed to forensic efforts, I have contented myself by casting a silent vote on the one side or the other of the various propositions that have from time to time been presented for the consideration of this body. And were it not for the vital importance of the subject now before us and the deep interests my constituents take in the issue involved, I should obey that innate modesty of my nature, and shrink from the discharge of a duty assigned me by the position I hold here.

If gentlemen will bear with me, however, for a short time, I will endeavor to assign some of the reasons that control the vote I shall give on the present occasion.

When in May last, the people were called upon to vote for or against a Convention to reform the Constitution of this State, the elements of calculation as to the benefits of such a Convention, were as multifarious, and as the sequel proves, as conflicting, as their diversified sectional interests are antagonistical. I foresaw those difficulties and voted against the call for a Convention, but a majority of the people voted for a Convention, and we are here in obedience to their will, to reform the old or make a new organic law for the people of the whole State.

The people of the counties looked to the organization of this Constitution, and saw their political power had been preserved, (without which, be it remembered, no call for a Convention would have been made,) and feeling a necessity for certain general and useful reforms throughout the State, they readily acquiesced in the propriety of the measure. Presuming such reforms were equally apparent and equally necessary, in all parts of the State, they looked to this Convention as the means by which they were to be consummated.

Sir other gentlemen have told us what their constituents want, and what they demand, as a *sine qua non*. We have been told here that representation according to population will appease their demands, and unless that is granted all else will be worthless and vain. Others go for representation on that basis, in the counties alone, while another class, less definite, are in favor of a generous compromise.

These are the different platforms on which gentlemen stand here, and it is evident all cannot be gratified. I am happy to have it in my

power to present a panacea for the whole case, in the Worcester platform, which I will give, before I take my seat. The sooner we dispose of this representation question, the better, and the sooner we shall be able to proceed to the consideration of those general reforms to which I have alluded, and of so much *real* importance to the people of the whole State. True, as the gentleman from St. Mary's, (Mr. Blakistone,) has said, we all rode into this Convention on one general reform pony, but now we are here, appear not to understand each other, consequently there is no concert of action.

If I understood the people of Worcester aright, at the election held in September last, they discarded the idea of meddling with the present representation in the two branches of the General Assembly, except so far as a diminution in the House of Delegates, and rallied under the broad creed of *Retrenchment*, regarding reform only, as incidental to that good.

With a disinterested patriotism, so well characterized by the learned gentleman of Anne Arundel, (Mr. Dorsey,) a few weeks ago they looked to this Convention as the harbinger of better times and an earnest against oppressive taxation in the future. Every dollar of the present enormous State debt and the taxes necessary to pay the interest and finally liquidate the principal, they regard as a burden upon their resources, without security or even a distant hope of ever realising any benefit therefrom. We are told those public works are beginning to pay, and must, at no distant period, become a source of great revenue to the State; yet what will all that avail us? will our condition be bettered? will the taxes we now pay be returned to us? or rather will not this proposed principle of representation secure effectually, and to all time to come, the revenues beyond our reach or control. Engraft upon the Constitution a representation of numbers, and how should we stand?

Worcester county would be to Baltimore city as one is to	9
Caroline county	18
Calvert county	18
Allegany county	7
Somerset county	7
Anne Arundel	5
Washington county	5
Baltimore county	4
Cecil county	9
Carroll county	8
Dorchester county	9
Charles county	10
Frederick county	4
Harford county	9
Kent county	15
Montgomery county	11
Prince George's county	8
Queen Anne's county	12
St. Mary's county	13
Talbot county	13