

deed will be the doom of him who shoulders the responsibility.

As an agricultural interest, part and parcel, of the State, its life, fixed and permanent, our voice should be heard. If we had grown numerous, we should not ask for power at your expense. You expend millions upon millions to reach the coal beds of Allegany, and tap the commerce and travel of the Western States—for what? To benefit the great agricultural interests of the State? Oh, no. Suppose this money had been expended in the different counties of the State, to promote that great source of wealth which lies at the foundation of all others; then we should have met here to-day, from the counties, representing a dense population, with towns and hamlets dotted all over the length and breadth of the land, with wealth and prosperity diffused through all the arteries of the State. But we have lived by your neglect. You have prospered at our expense—and now you ask us to surrender up the last vestige of that patrimony guaranteed to us by our ancestors and become tributaries to a city! A city of numbers, to become an oasis! Let others do as they may I can never consent to it; and if Worcester county wishes to enter a crusade against her own best interests, she must select another agent; I cannot serve her in that capacity.

Having been indulged by the Convention so long, I will conclude my remarks by briefly enumerating those reforms which I believe the people of Worcester desire.

A majority, as I believe, are in favor of electing, by the people, all officers, from an overseer of the road, up to the Judges on the bench. On the mode of appointing this last class of officers, there is a difference of opinion; some for electing, some for appointing; my vote will depend upon the details of the system. They are in favor of an efficient and economical judiciary system—the high court of chancery and the orphans' court system to be abolished. Hold but one election in two years, and have biennial sessions of the Legislature. Sell the Governor's house and lands, and permit the Governor to live at home, with a moderate salary; his term of office to be four years, and strip him of the appointing power, except for vacancies happening *interim*. Preserve the ration, but reduce the number of delegates in the House. Restrict the Legislature from borrowing money on the faith of the State, and from appropriating any moneys out of the treasury for any purpose whatever, except for administration of government, for war, or suppression of insurrectionary movements. The present financial system of the State to be inviolate until the State debt is fully paid, after which provide for a distribution of the revenues from works of internal improvement amongst the several counties and city of Baltimore, in the same proportion, as by taxation, they shall have contributed to them. Elect a board of commissioners of works of internal improvement. A stated and regular codification of the laws.

Give us these reforms and retrenchments, and on the representation question we need not di-

verge to the right or left, when the straight path of duty and safety lies open before us.

These are the views that have controlled my votes in this Convention up to the present time, and will continue to do so down to the last hour of our sittings here. If they are not sufficiently popular to control a majority of this body, I shall the more regret it, because, on this platform, the counties must stand; if they would retain their present political power in this hall; otherwise, they must abandon themselves to a shifting, uncertain, declining scale of power, that will consign them to novelty, and their rights to the tender mercies of a populous city. But I perceive the spirit of compromise is abroad; I shall do my duty, let the record tall to future generations who they are that surrender our ancient birth-rights to tyrant numbers.

I shall vote for the substitute of the gentleman from Dorchester, (Mr. Phelps,) because it will leave the relative political power of the counties and Baltimore city where it now is, at the same time it will take from each county and city one delegate, thereby reducing the number in the House to 61—this will be retrenchment and reform.

Mr. J. having concluded,

Mr. KILGOUR took the floor, but waived the motion at the request of

Mr. RANDALL, who gave notice of his intention at the proper time to offer the following amendment, which he desired should be entered upon the record.

Article 1st. The House of Delegates shall, until altered by the Legislature after every decennial census hereafter, consist of eighty-three members, and in order that each portion of the State may be fairly represented and its various interests protected in the Legislature, the whole State shall be divided into separate single election districts, the city of Baltimore shall henceforth be divided into ten districts as follows, viz: The first and second wards as now laid off, shall constitute district No. 1; the third and fourth wards district No. 2; the fifth and sixth wards, district No. 3, the seventh and eighth wards, district No. 4; the ninth and tenth wards, district No. 5; the eleventh and twelfth wards, district No. 6; the thirteenth and fourteenth wards, district No. 7; the fifteenth and sixteenth wards, district No. 8; the seventeenth and eighteenth wards, district No. 9; and the nineteenth and twentieth wards district No. 10, and the several counties shall be divided by the Legislature at its first session after the adoption of this Constitution, into districts of compact contiguous territory, equal in number to the number of delegates to which they may respectively hereby be entitled; no one district to elect more than one delegate; and every district in each county to be as nearly as practicable of equal population with the other districts of that county. The qualified voters in each of the said districts shall, at the time, and in the manner in which delegates are chosen, elect one delegate, who has been for year next before his election, a resident of the ward or district from which he shall be elected; and has, in all other