

in, the task of guarding every point becomes a very difficult one; but by a proper distribution of our forces, we can but think that the rebels could be prevented from crossing the Potomac, unless they did it at great risk. That the border should be guarded better in the future than it has been in the past, admits of but little doubt. "A word to the wise is sufficient." S.

Mr. LANSDALE. I have no doubt that this refers to me, not a shadow of doubt about it, although my name is not used; and I too have to pronounce it utterly false from beginning to end and unworthy of an honorable man. The men this article speaks of came upon me as unexpectedly as upon any member of this convention. I knew nothing of their passing in that direction until they appeared. The insinuation that I was aware of this thing is utterly false. I knew nothing of it. They came upon me unexpectedly, and they took my property, used up my corn and hay and injured my property to the amount of \$700, \$800, or \$900, and went away without one word of compensation and scarcely thanks. That is the truth of the case.

In regard to my not voting at the election, I am unfortunately in the same position with perhaps 50,000 men in Maryland. I did not vote, because I was not willing to be subjected to impertinent questions at the election. There are thousands of others in Montgomery in the same position, besides a vast number in the whole State. Perhaps if they had had an opportunity of voting we might not have been assembled here.

I close with saying that the whole thing is utterly false, without foundation in truth, and that the author is a base calumniator and scoundrel, let him be who he may.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Mr. MILLER. I find on page 253 of the journal [July 21] an order "that the report of the committee on the basis of representation be made the order of the day immediately after the conclusion of the second reading of the article on the legislative department." We have not yet completed the second reading of that article, and as it is not therefore yet in order to take up the report of the committee on the basis of representation, I move to take up the report on amendments to the constitution.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. The purpose of that order was that this should be the next thing considered by the convention. I therefore hope the motion of the gentleman will be voted down.

The motion was not agreed to.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

On motion of Mr. CUSHING,

The convention then proceeded to the consideration of the article submitted by the

committee on the basis of representation in the two houses of the general assembly, which was read as follows:

Section 1. Immediately after the adoption of this constitution, and before there shall have been held any general election under it, the mayor and city council of the city of Baltimore shall proceed to lay off and divide the said city into three several districts, of equal population and contiguous territory, as near as may be.

Sec. 2. Every county in the State, and each district of the city of Baltimore, as hereinbefore provided for, shall be entitled to one senator, who shall be elected by the qualified voters of the counties and city of Baltimore respectively, and who shall serve for _____ years from the date of their election.

Sec. 3. The white population of the State shall constitute the basis of representation in the house of delegates, and the apportionment of the delegates among the several counties and districts of the city of Baltimore shall be as follows: For every five thousand persons, or a fractional part thereof above one-half, one delegate shall be chosen until the number of delegates in each county and district of the city of Baltimore shall reach five. Above that number, one delegate shall be chosen for every fifteen thousand persons, or a fractional portion over one-half thereof, until the whole number of delegates from each county and district of the city of Baltimore shall reach ten. Above that number, each county and district of the said city shall elect one delegate for every forty-five thousand persons, or fractional portion thereof above one-half. Upon this principle, and until the next federal census, or State enumeration of inhabitants, the house of delegates shall consist of eight-two members, distributed as follows:

Allegany, five members; Anne Arundel, two; each of the three districts in Baltimore city, seven; Baltimore county, six; Calvert, one; Caroline, two; Carroll, five; Cecil, four; Charles, one; Dorchester, two; Frederick six; Harford, four; Howard, two; Kent, one; Montgomery, two; Prince George's, two; Queen Ann's, two; St. Mary's, one; Somerset, three; Talbot, two; Washington, five; Worcester, three.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's, submitted the following amendment:

Strike out the entire section submitted by the majority of the committee, and insert in lieu thereof the report submitted by the minority of the committee, as follows:

Section 1. Every county of the State and the city of Baltimore, shall be entitled to elect one senator, who shall be elected by the qualified voters of the counties and the city of Baltimore respectively, and who shall serve for four years from the day of their election.

Sec. 2. The legislature at its first session after the returns of each national census are published under the authority of Congress,