

of seventy-two members, and although the city of Providence has one-third of the whole population, she is only entitled to twelve delegates. The principle of representation as applicable to the large States of New York and Pennsylvania is certainly not applicable to our little State. The population of New York State is upwards of 3,000,000, and the city has only about 800,000. And the population of Philadelphia is about the same, towards the population of the rest of the State.

And even if they in those large States have adopted the principle of representation according to population, the principle would not be applicable to us. With us it must be a matter of compromise, securing a proper representation in the legislature to every interest and section of the State. I know of no reasons why this principle of compromise should not be followed here, unless it is intended to give to Baltimore the political control of the State.

The minority of the committee did not for a moment undertake to disturb or change the representation in the senate. This we held too sacred to be interfered with in this day of national and State political demoralization. The senate was established as the conservative branch of the legislature, and the past history of the State has shown the wisdom of thus organizing the State government, as it is the only means of preventing hasty and inconsiderate legislation. Yet the majority of the committee have recommended that the convention not only give to the city of Baltimore one-fourth of the whole representation in the lower house, but that the convention overlook every principle upon which the representation is fixed in the senate, which will effectually destroy its usefulness as a conservative body. Why is it that at this time, under existing circumstances, so important a change is proposed to be effected? A change which no political party or set of men have ever attempted before during any period of your State's history. Are you willing for this change? Are you willing to disturb the present representation in the senate, by giving her three senators, thereby securing to her a political preponderance in both houses, which will enable her to control the balance of the State? I think the principles upon which our senate was organized was a wise one—it was truly a conservative body, and prevented hasty and inconsiderate legislation. Its wisdom and usefulness as applicable to our condition, has been tested by the experience of the past and should not now be changed.

But, sir, I would not be surprised at any steps the majority of this convention would take in its gigantic strides towards fanaticism and ruin. They propose to divide Baltimore city into three senatorial districts, and give her three senators and twenty-one delegates. And in my portion of the State they

propose only to give the counties of Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert, seven delegates. Are you as honorable beings—as men who should feel an interest in every part of the State, willing to do us so much injustice? Are you willing to record your votes for this iniquitous proposition?

Much has been said here in relation to the jealousy which is said to exist between Baltimore city and the counties of the State. I know of no such jealousy. I certainly do not entertain any such feeling. I am proud of Baltimore as a great city in the confines of the State that gave me birth. But whilst I am justly proud of that city, I am yet prouder of Prince George's county, and am here to defend her interest on this floor. I do not mean to stand by and see almost the whole political influence of the State vested in Baltimore, and my section of the State reduced to mere provinces. I am willing to render to Baltimore all to which she is rightfully entitled, to give her a representation sufficient to protect all of her interests, but am unwilling to give her all the power, which must result in the sacrifice of every interest of the several counties.

The minority report proposes to give Baltimore twelve members of the house of delegates and one senator as now. It provides for the division of the city into twelve electoral districts, each one of which will be entitled to elect one delegate, the senator to be elected by the whole vote of the city. It apportions the representation as follows: Baltimore shall be entitled to one delegate for every 17,000 inhabitants, or fractional part thereof over one-half, and the counties one for every 7,000 inhabitants, or fractional part over one-half. And upon this principle the representation is to be increased with the increase of population. This apportionment is made and it would be impossible to fix any other general system to do justice to every part of the State. By the apportionment made in the minority report we give Frederick county one, and Baltimore county two more delegates than they will be entitled to by the majority report. And I want to ask gentlemen here, who represent those counties, are they prepared to vote against the minority report and support the report of the majority of the committee? What reasons can they assign to their people for the rejecting of this increased representation offered by us to their counties? I advise them to look well into this question before voting, as my experience in government has convinced me that all people are very tenacious of political influence.

These, Mr. President, are some of the many reasons which induced this minority report. I had not expected to be forced into the argument of this question to-day, or I would have prepared some notes and statistics on