

majority report can be right; for I judge the tree by its fruits. Here are some figures taken from the census report, showing the white and colored population of some of the counties:

	Total.	White.	Colored.
Charles.....	16,517	5,796	10,721
Calvert.....	10,447	3,997	6,450
Prince George's....	23,327	9,650	13,677
St. Mary's.....	15,213	6,798	8,415
Talbot.....	14,795	8,106	6,689
Worcester.....	20,661	13,442	7,219

In Talbot county the colored population is nearly one-half; in Worcester over one-third, and in the other counties named over one-half of the total population. Now, these people are among us. We are not responsible for it. Were it necessary for me to argue this question, I might point you to the high authority of the President of the United States, who said in his message to the 39th Congress that the south is no more responsible for the existence of slavery in any part of this country than the North. The gentlemen from Baltimore city who sat in these halls to make a constitution fifteen years ago, by a unanimous vote recognized the existence of this institution, and said that for all future time the legislature should not lay its unholy hands upon this institution. These people are in our midst. Now, just see the operation of it. If we have a colored population does it not displace to that extent an equal number of white people? In other words, if these colored people were not among us would we not have an equal or larger number of white inhabitants?

You may say it is our fault. I say it is not my fault, or the fault of my constituents, or the fault of your constituents of Talbot or Worcester county, or of the people of any other portion of this State. Can any member upon this floor, who sits here not alone to represent the county to which he particularly belongs, but as the representative of the whole State of Maryland, to do justice to each and every part of it, to Baltimore city as well as to Charles county, to Allegany as well as to Worcester—can he, as a man of enlarged and comprehensive views, disposed to mete out justice freely and impartially, fully without any denial, adopt a rule which in my county, out of a population of 16,517, places out of the reckoning 10,721? and which in Calvert county, Prince George's, St. Mary's, Talbot, and Worcester, throws out of the enumeration one-half of their whole population?

Are we to fix representation upon white population, when we know that in Baltimore city the census table tells us there are 52,497 aliens, besides a large floating population, who are like birds of passage, there the day the census-taker went round and gone the next, with no more interest, no more right to be counted in this enumeration than the men who live in Ireland and Kamschatka?

If Maryland was a State over which slavery was equally and generally distributed, we would not care whether you counted the colored population or left it entirely out of the enumeration; for the result would be the same in either case. But I say that men coming here to a constitutional convention cannot ignore these solemn facts. They must look them in the face. They cannot thrust them out of the account without doing gross injustice to the people of a large portion of the State. The object and design of all governments is to protect the weak against the strong. The object of us all should be to extend the protecting axis of this constitution alike over every part and parcel of the State, recognizing and taking into consideration all its different and diversified interests. See how this operate here. In Baltimore city you count 52,497 aliens, but in Charles county 58, and in Talbot county 45, and a correspondingly small proportion in many of the other counties.

Mr. STIRLING. Does the gentleman refer to the foreign-born or the unnaturalized?

Mr. EDLÉN. The foreign-born. I have not been able to find any table approximating more nearly to what I wanted; and I apprehend that those coming under the general designation of foreign-born, while many of them may have become naturalized citizens, still in a very large majority of instances have no sort of interest in our government. Now, let me call attention to another portion of the State, and see what proportion of their population they lose by fixing representation on the white basis.

Here is a table showing the white and colored population of Baltimore city and some of the western counties, from which it will be seen that in the enumeration Allegany county, out of an aggregate population of 28,348, loses only 1,133; Washington county out of a population of 31,417, loses only 3,112; Carroll county, out of a population of 24,533, loses only 2,008; Cecil, out of a population of 23,862, loses only 3,868; while Baltimore city, with a population of 212,418, loses only 27,898, and is amply compensated for such loss by having her foreign-born population of 52,697 brought into the account:

	Total.	White.	Col'd.
Allegany.....	28,348	27,215	1,133
Washington.....	31,417	28,305	3,112
Carroll.....	24,533	22,525	2,008
Cecil.....	23,862	19,994	3,868
Baltimore city...212,418	184,520	27,898	

When I came here as a delegate from Charles county I was prepared for the scenes which have transpired upon the consideration of the bill of rights; I was prepared, by what I had seen in the public prints, to believe that the majority would strip my people of five millions of dollars worth of property. But I must say that I was not prepared to see the conven-