

children, when they grow up, if they are males, vote. The ladies—God bless them—govern in a very different way from the voting way; but they belong to the ruling class.

Now, I wish to throw out of this question and remove from the consideration of this body, every idea connected with the color of these people. It does not matter that they are black or yellow. That is not in the question. The negro is not in the question as I view it. It is not because they are a black race, but because they have been slaves, that even after they are free I acquiesce in this course. It is because they are a proscribed class. They might be a proscribed class and not be black. There have been proscribed classes in other nations of the world, who were not black, and the reason would apply to them just as it does here. Suppose we had a pariah class in this country. Would gentlemen have the pariah class represented in the halls of legislation among the ruling class to their detriment? It is the principle of a true system of representation that the ruling class alone shall be represented.

What is the effect of any other system than that? If you give to these pariah people, black or white, this proscribed class, this degraded class, a representation in this hall, it is a representation by their enemies. What justice is there in that? Gentlemen say that the lower class claim to be represented. Represented how? It does not mean that if I am down trodden and oppressed I shall be counted as one to swell the number of my oppressors. Yet that is precisely their demand; that this proscribed class shall be represented here by a different class, by a race interested in persecuting and oppressing them.

The result of any such theory as that is precisely the result that has always followed this kind of representation so far as it has been admitted. It has resulted in this country in their absolute slavery. It has resulted in other countries in their further oppression. I am not going into the details of this argument. I could occupy half an hour or more in showing how it has been in all ages of the world. Wherever a proscribed class in a nation, or country, or community even, have had this kind of voice, a voice as against themselves, the result has always been their further degradation, and their further oppression, and the security of their proscription. Here is the great injustice; that they are made the unwilling instruments of their own oppression.

I can readily understand how it might be in the State of Maryland, if this race goes on increasing, that being thus represented in this hall, the time might in the future come that the glorious representatives of that class in this hall might hereafter re-enslave them. That might very well happen; and the

greatest hardship would be that these pariah people would have been made the instruments of their own enslavement.

Do the gentlemen understand why it is that we claim that the white people of this State shall be made the true basis of representation? It is because the white people of this State are the ruling people of this State; and as long as that remains the fact, the white men should be represented in the government, in the executive department, in the legislative department, in the judiciary department, in all the ramifications of the government. So long as the white race is the ruling class, upon what kind of theory can gentlemen demand that any other than that race shall be represented?

I do not think I have occupied ten minutes; yet I think I have made my view as clear as I can upon this particular point. I want gentlemen to answer it. I claim that the white basis is the true basis of representation in the State of Maryland as long as the white people of the State are the ruling class in the State. As long as the executive power of the State is exercised by the white people of the State, just so long shall the lawmakers of the State be the white people of the State; and so long as the makers of the laws shall be the white people of the State, so long shall those who send them to make the laws be the white people. Let not the negro race be represented in the legislature by another race, and thus made the instruments of their own degradation.

Mr. BARRON. By general consent I ask to submit an order that the final vote on the basis of representation shall be taken on Saturday next at 1 o'clock.

Mr. CUSHING. We expect to get a vote to-night.

Mr. ABBOTT. I object to the introduction of that order. We may be ready to vote upon it before that time.

Mr. BARRON. I will not press it.

On motion of Mr. PURNELL,

The convention took a recess until 8 o'clock.

#### EVENING SESSION.

The Convention reassembled at 8 o'clock, P. M.

The roll was called, and the following members answered to their names:

Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Audoun, Baker, Barron, Belt, Berry, of Prince George's, Blackiston, Bond, Briscoe, Brown, Chambers, Clarke, Cunningham, Cushing, Dail, Daniel, Davis, of Charles, Davis, of Washington, Dellinger, Duvall, Earle, Ecker, Edelen, Farrow, Galloway, Greene, Harwood, Hebb, Henkle, Hollyday, Hopkins, Hopper, Horsey, Jones, of Somerset, Keefer, Kennard, King, Lansdale, Lee, Marbury, McComas, Miller, Mullikin, Murray, Negley, Nyman, Parker, Parran, Peter, Purnell,