

Mr. McCulloch presented the following memorial of a Special Committee appointed by the people of the coal region of Maryland.

*To the General Assembly of Maryland :*

Your memorialists, charged with the duty of presenting to the consideration of your Honorable Bodies the grounds upon which they ask you to pass a bill providing for taking a vote of the people on the question of forming a new county of the adjacent parts of Allegany and Garrett counties, beg leave to present the following facts and reasons:

In regard to territory, the Land Records of the State credit the two counties with less than 1200 square miles. When the survey was made, however, which ascertained such to be the area, is not known to our people here. It was, doubtless, in colonial times, when these mountains were the habitation of wild beasts, rather than men, and when there was no adequate motive to make an accurate survey, as our valuable mineral deposits lay there, hidden and unknown, and this section deemed a wilderness never, in all probability, to become valuable. Surveyors, moreover, who have practiced their profession in these counties for years, and surveyed by piecemeal the greater part of them, affirm that the area is quite 1400 square miles.

As regards population, we have but to refer you to the Census Report of 1870, which makes it 38,256, with the remark that it is now quite 45,000.

The material wealth of the section that would be included in the new county cannot be estimated, but as seems already known to the Legislature, is considerable enough for a State tax, above and beneath the surface. It affords a revenue to the State Treasury greater than that of any county in the State; is the resource, almost entirely, of the revenue of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and, in a great measure, of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Its coal fields called both into being, have made the former what it is to-day, and has enabled the latter to now grasp States in its embrace.

Certainly, then, we have the material of every kind that the Constitution of the State requires, and to the full amount. The capital here invested, and the industry of our people have done much for the prosperity of the State, is still doing, and will continue to do for ages to come.

We would further beg leave to say, that the mountainous character of this section of the State, with its long and severe winters and rough roads, makes the formation of another county a necessity to the people thereof. Many of the people of Garrett are distant thirty and forty miles from