

on the particular portion of the State in which slaves were most numerous.

In regard to the second part of the report that population alone could not be taken as the basis of representation in the House of Delegates there was a division in the convention. There was both a sectional and a political interest against recognizing population as the basis of representation; sectional, because it would have thrown the smaller counties in the minority in future legislatures, and political, because it would have given the State to the Democrats. This latter event the Whigs, who were in the majority, were determined to prevent.

There were two views held in the convention in regard to representation between which a compromise had to be made. The first was in favor of a system of representation on a population basis for the whole State. The second favored representation on the basis of population for the counties; but restricted Baltimore City to a representation equal to that of the largest county.

In some of the southern counties during the contest for seats in the convention, the question of secession was discussed.¹³ It was decided in event of population being taken as the basis of representation in the General Assembly of the State, that there should be engrafted on the new constitution a provision, which would enable the Eastern Shore and southern Maryland to secede peaceably from the State, and unite with Delaware or Virginia. The time of secession was to take place whenever the interest of these sections seemed to require it.

For this purpose Mr. T. H. Hicks, afterwards governor of Maryland, offered an amendment to the Declaration of Rights providing, "That any portion of the people of this State have the right to secede, and unite themselves and the territory occupied by them to such adjoining State as they shall elect."¹⁴ One of the members of the conven-

¹³ Debates, vol. i, p. 156.

¹⁴ Debates, vol. i, p. 150.