

the legislature from altering the relation of master and slave as then existed in the State. The representatives from the southern counties had no faith in a constitution, especially since the old constitution had been abolished by a *revolutionary* act.<sup>19</sup> They did not consider themselves secure unless they had the controlling influence in the government of the State in their own hands.

When the final vote was taken on the popular basis of representation for the whole State, only seventeen votes were cast in its favor, and sixty against it.<sup>20</sup> Baltimore City and Frederick county cast a solid vote for the popular basis; Baltimore and Carroll counties three each, and Harford county one. The remaining counties cast a solid vote against the proposal.

The committee after a long deliberation and comparison of views, found it impossible to concur by a majority in any plan of representation. On the 15th of February, Mr. Merrick, with the permission of the committee, submitted a plan for consideration. The report was not one in which the committee concurred. It was for the purpose of bringing the subject before the convention that the committee authorized the report to be made.

The plan submitted by Mr. Merrick gave Baltimore City two more delegates than the largest county in the House of Delegates; the members to be chosen annually. The Senate was to be composed of twenty-two senators elected for a term of four years. One senator from each county, and two from Baltimore City; but the city was to be divided into two senatorial districts and nine electoral districts, for the purpose of electing members to the House of Delegates. Each district was to elect one member.<sup>21</sup> The proposition to district Baltimore City, as has been done since, was advocated by the Whig voters of the city, who were in the minority.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> See ch. i, p. 32.

<sup>20</sup> Debates, vol. i, p. 122.

<sup>21</sup> Debates, vol. i, p. 285.

<sup>22</sup> Baltimore American, November 20, 1850.