

for the most modern and advanced measures, and aroused little opposition or jealousy on the part of the county members.

The thirty-five Democrats who formed the minority, bravely, tenaciously and ably upheld their principles in a manner worthy of admiration, but always professed their loyalty to the Union as embodied in the Constitution of the United States. Their position was based on state's rights, a policy of conciliation toward the South, and, as far as possible, a continuation of political and industrial conditions as existent in the state and nation before the outbreak of the war, which they condemned as unnecessary and an oppression of the South. They asked if it was "any more treason for the South to subvert the Constitution by force of arms, than . . . for President Lincoln, with his army, to subvert the Constitution by force of arms."⁸

These members came entirely from the ten southern and Eastern Shore counties of Kent, Queen Anne's, Dorchester, Somerset, Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's. These were the counties which were usually designated by the Union men as "Rebel" and "Pro-Slavery."⁹

One of the majority members has since said in private conversation that the minority contained "a larger number of brilliant men for its size than any other body which has ever come together in a legislative capacity in Maryland." Though no one man stands out as their leader in the same dominating capacity as did Mr. Stirling in connection with the majority, perhaps David Clarke, of Prince George's comes nearer to this position than any other. His speeches in the Convention, when read at the present day, are of the greatest interest, as showing the attempt of a brilliant man of modern times to justify and perpetuate the institutions of a bygone age. In fact, this may be said of

⁸ Deb., ii, 1357.

⁹ "American," May 4, 1864.