

ests are not the same. We have northern and southern counties which do not appreciate the institution of slavery alike. He did not mean to say that there is any disaffection in Maryland on this subject. But we cannot disguise the truth. The fact is, that we of the south have a very deep concern for this species of labor, and that other counties have not the same degree of interest. We do not know how soon it may become the interest of that section to interfere with the institution, and we shall then have the problem solved whether a political community having the power to promote their own interest will hesitate long to do it. Mr. T. was proceeding further in his remarks, when he was interrupted by

Mr. SCHLEY, who suggested that the gentleman from Prince George's, would find on page 474 of the Constitutions, another State recognizing federal numbers.

Mr TUCK resumed. For the first time in Maryland, (to which the gentleman alluded,) federal numbers had been recognized in our Constitution of 1836, but it was a compromise based on federal numbers and territory—two members for territory and the rest for numbers on a given ratio. He would go for territory and population now. But since the year 1836, a wide spread fanaticism had careered through this land, sowing the seeds of discord and strife. Was it at such a time when the entire south as with one voice is asserting its rights, that the State of Maryland is to falter in duty to herself. May we not appeal to this Convention against giving a practical denial to their resolutions of December last upon the subject of the compromise measures of Congress? We have there declared that slave property is within the pale and protection of the laws of the country. Shall we by our action now show that the slaves in Maryland are less the objects of protection than those of other States? He would not imagine any reason for this measure being presented. He was sure it was a good one. Yet he could not but observe the fact that it comes from a section of the State where this institution is not cherished as of peculiar importance—and the time may come when the origin of the amendment will be deemed as furnishing significance of its object and purpose.

We of the south feel keenly on this subject. We are oppressed with taxes for the benefit of others. The public debt was incurred for the improvement of the upper counties. Of our property a large proportion is slaves assessed, at a high valuation, on which we pay our State tax.

By the rule of federal numbers, under the Constitution of the United States, the direct taxes as well as representation are apportioned on that scale. Yet we are to have federal numbers for representation, and whole numbers when required to contribute in respect of our slaves for the support of government, and that too for the benefit of that very section from which this unkind blow comes. If we are to have federal numbers, let us have the rule in all its parts—let our slaves be exempt from taxation to the extent of the two-fifths not recognised in the basis of representation.

Mr. TUCK would say further, that he could not understand the operation of the ratio as to the fractions. Why does the gentleman take three-fourths instead of one half as the fractional ratio? As the members had not had time to examine the proposition, he would ask his friend from Washington to explain his plan, and let us know how the fractions would result. Mr. TUCK was not prepared for the discussion at this time, but he could not let the occasion pass without protesting against the injustice and wrong that would be inflicted on his section of the State, if this rule should prevail.

Mr. PRESSTMAN addressed the Convention. His remarks will be published hereafter.

Mr. MERRICK would remark in reply to the views expressed by the member from Prince George's, that nothing seemed to be settled here. It had been resolved by a very large majority that they would not regard federal numbers. It was now proposed to change that. He would call attention to the late census of Maryland, from which it appeared that in the State there are seventy-three thousand, six hundred and twenty-two free negroes. By federal numbers, every free negro would be equal to the President or any member of the Convention.

In Maryland there are also ninety thousand three hundred and fifty-six slaves; but these were excluded. The free negro was made equal to the worthiest citizen, and another portion of the population was excluded, though much more worthy, useful and respectable than the free negroes. In the city of Baltimore, where there were twenty thousand free negroes, they were to be counted in the apportionment. But in the southern portion of the State, where there were five to ten thousand slaves in every county, they were to be excluded. He wished merely to call attention to this fact.

Mr. SCHLEY did not intend to make a speech with regard to federal numbers. It was enough for him that the State of Maryland itself, recognised federal numbers.

He did not intend to embark in any controversy upon the subject of slavery, with the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. TUCK,) by attempting a reply to his main argument. He had only to appeal to earlier votes recorded in the proceedings of this Convention, to prove that the county represented here in part by himself, was as orthodox upon the subject of slavery, as the counties of Prince George's or Anne Arundel.

He had arisen for the purpose of answering the question of the effect of the fraction selected in the proposition. The fraction must necessarily have been arbitrary, for there was no reason why three-fourths should be selected, more than one-half or one-fourth. Mr. S. then designated which would gain.

Mr. DORSEY said, that the Constitution of Maryland as it now exists did not authorise the adoption of federal numbers. It was only after the year 1776 that it recognised this principle. He was opposed to that basis for this reason. According to the proposition of the gentleman from Charles, every free negro would be made equal to