

tection and power, which was sufficiently great to afford it protection. If, for instance, a particular interest should need special protection, it would be right and proper, in the formation of a government, that a political power should be given to that particular interest in the proportion of that interest being great or small, as related to the other interests of the government, which was to be formed. He desired to advert to this principle, as it related to his own constituency. In his Congressional district they had an interest which was paramount to the same interests in the whole State. They would say to gentlemen who desired to take away the whole of their political power, and were whittling it down to such a small amount as would render it scarcely worth retaining, that they had a particular interest, and were desirous of having that interest protected, and that they felt as though they ought to receive at the hands of the people of the State of Maryland, in Convention assembled, a fair share of political power, by which they might be enabled to protect themselves in the enjoyment of their rights, and in the protection of their interests.

It might be said, and he had no doubt that the honorable gentleman from Baltimore city, [Mr. Prestman,] when he introduced his proposition, which was the only one that had ever met the unanimous vote of the Convention, did it with a view that that matter being settled, it might be argued that it was not necessary that a particular locality which had a certain interest, should have that interest protected; and having incorporated a provision in the Constitution, he imagined their mouths would be closed, because when they went to speak, he could say, it was a part of the contract.

This might be true, [said Mr. B.] but you and I, Mr. President, having grown up young men together; and just now approaching maturity, [laughter,] but not yet having arrived at what might be called years of discretion, know that this is not to be relied upon. The very power that made the Constitution can change it, and it is only necessary, when a change is desired to call another Convention.

He desired to speak to the gentlemen from the Eastern Shore, to the people of which he had been paying his respects. He had seen a good many of the constituents of the gentlemen representing that portion of the State, and they had deputed him to tell their representatives that they should not part with any of their power, for if they did, they would hold them to a strict accountability. They had a beautiful country, a very patriotic, resolute, and intelligent population, and what they said, they would be very apt to do.

Having gone through this much, he would come to the point of the government being a government of compromise. On this point he would say that the different interests ought to have a controlling power some where, so as to act as checks and counter checks, thus making this a government of checks and balances. One branch of the government should hold a check

upon the other. The Governor was elected by the people. Well, this was Democratic enough for any body, not too much so, however, for him; for it exactly and precisely suited him. He never in his life had any thing that he did not get from the people, and he would rather trust them than any set of politicians, Whigs or Democrats. They were now going to have the judges elected by the people. They could do this if they chose their people would be satisfied with almost anything, if they would keep their hands off of the representation system.

He voted for the proposition of the gentleman from Kent, and he would explain his vote. He did so because he thought it was the best he could get, and because he had no idea of ever going back. "Progressive Democracy" never travelled back.

He had seen nothing yet that came up exactly to the standard of what he would like to vote for upon this question of apportionment and representation. The gentleman from Anne Arundel, [Mr. Dorsey,] had introduced a proposition which he had not had an opportunity to examine, as he could not obtain a copy of it to ascertain its object. He would like very much, if it was convenient for the gentleman, that he should explain to them the principle upon which his plan was intended to operate. He did not, however, like to say that he would go for it; because he did not like to go for any thing blind, and always desired to look before he leaped. He hoped, also, that the gentleman from Washington, [Mr. Schley,] would explain his proposition. His present impression was that he should vote against both.

Mr. President I have endeavored to perform a duty which I owe to my constituents and the State at large. Whatever course other honorable gentlemen might pursue, he would be found faithfully representing the interests and wishes of his constituents. They had honored him, and he would never desert, nor dishonor them. He adjured gentlemen, by the respect they bore to their venerated ancestors—by the glorious reminiscences of the past history of Maryland—by those blessings which we all now so abundantly enjoy under our present Constitution—by the joyous anticipations of the hopeful future, to hesitate, to stay their hand, to counsel of wisdom, and not to cast a withering blast over the history of the past, the enjoyments of the present, and the prospects of the future. May that wisdom which cannot err, guide and direct you in all your deliberations, and lead you to the wisest and happiest conclusions. May Maryland ever stand an example to her sister States, of fidelity to herself and to the Union. And may the principles of civil, religious and political freedom, which have ever been cherished in her limits, be made perpetual, whilst admiring millions catching the fire of inspiration from her example, shall rejoice, in the enjoyments of a well defined constitutional liberty.

In conclusion, Mr. B. thanked the Convention for their attention, and hoped it would not be necessary for him to occupy so much of their time upon any future occasion during the session.