

at least, raising a voice against the deed. I am here as an agent to carry out the wishes of those who have chosen me as one of their delegates. I came here determined to support the plan of representation, which has been already proposed by the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers.) It is the same as that adopted in 1836, with the exception of being based upon the whole population instead of federal numbers. The people of my county are desirous to have reforms upon other questions, but they have seen no reason why the present basis, except as to federal numbers, should be abandoned, and they are not willing to strip themselves of all power.

But, by a solemn vote of this Convention, it is now determined that this system cannot be retained. Some of those counties, which had been looked to as its friends, had deserted it in time of need. What system then is to be adopted? The cloud of doubt now hanging over this subject, can only be dispelled by the future. It is a question which I, at least, am unable to answer.

In the first article of the Bill of Rights, is to be found this declaration:

"That all government of right originates from the people, and is founded in compact only."

A learned debate has been had here about the application of this word *compact*—that is, whether a Constitution is a compact or not. I will not at this time enter into an inquiry whether it is a compact, or is founded only in compact which terminates so soon as the Constitution is made. We are here only to make a Constitution and to fix upon its terms and compromises. A discussion now, in connection with this subject, as to its binding obligations, as a compact, after it is formed, will lead us to no practical result. It is, however, to be founded in compact and agreement. What agreement shall we, the delegated agents of the people, enter into upon this subject of representation? Will you adopt representation according to population? Here in this body it is already "*res adjudicata*." A vote has been taken upon it, and only seventeen members voted in favor of it. But a word or two about the doctrine. It is held by many, that representation according to population is an abstract principle, and right in every republican government.

In the formation of government there can be no abstract principle. Government is but an agreement to live together upon certain terms agreed on between the parties. It is "founded in compact," and the terms are to be regulated entirely and only by the consent of those who have agreed to form it. This could not be the case if principles were already established, [ny some power unknown to me.] which were to control that consent and agreement. In the formation of government, all the various surrounding circumstances are to be taken into consideration, and that form adopted which will best conduce to the protection of those who are parties to it. One of the gentlemen from Baltimore city very properly remarked, that population might be used as an argument in settling and agreeing upon the proper basis of representation, but it cannot be claimed as an abstract principle,

which "*proprio vigore*," was to govern in the formation of an organic law. These positions, he thinks, can not be denied. I had proposed to myself to enter fully into the discussion of this question of representation according to population, but, inasmuch as it is settled, at least here, it would be a needless consumption of time, and I will refrain from so doing.

It is well said by Mr. Locke, that "the great end of man's entering into society, is to enjoy property in peace and safety." This is, or at least ought to be, the object of every government. His person should be amply and fully protected, and his rights and liberty carefully guarded. The means which he has husbanded in the great struggle of life, be they large or small, should be secured to his control and enjoyment. He looks to the government for protection, and it should be given in the most ample manner, "fully, without any denial, and speedily, without delay." Such is the object of government, and that cannot be said to be perfect, even in the perfection which the human mind may reach, in which the various interests of the people are not protected. To give this protection in Maryland, the question of representation must be made the subject of compromise. It must be such a compromise as will enable us to move on in harmony—no one interest clashing with and destroying another.

The gentleman from A. legany, (Mr. Weber,) has advocated the proposition offered by the gentleman from Washington, as a compromise, which ought to be acceptable. I regret that I am obliged to differ from him. I listened with the greatest pleasure to his argument, and derived from it much instruction. It displayed great intelligence, observation and labor. I agree with him that there are conflicting interests in the State, which should be properly adjusted in the settlement of this question of representation. I cannot, however, agree with him in his classification of those interests. He has claimed to classify them by the gubernatorial districts as they are now laid off. Is this correct? Are there not counties, in the Eastern district, whose interests are identical with those of the Southern counties on the Western Shore? Their pursuits and institutions are the same. A large majority of them are found, upon this subject, acting side by side with the Southern counties. No, sir; the classification is not a just one—it is wrong. The premises of the gentleman are erroneous, and the deduction, which he has drawn from them, must be equally so. But conceding, for the sake of the argument, that he is right, does it afford any sufficient reason why the proposition of the gentleman from Washington should be adopted? Assuming that these conflicting interests exist as he has arranged them, he says that this proposition gives to each interest nearly the same power in the Legislature. In this division, for some reason which he has not given, he does not include Baltimore city. Now by a reference to the figures, it will be found that they do not sustain him in his views. This plan of representation does not give to these several divisions, it appears to me, "very nearly the same