

it was but a rallying cry, a clarion blast "to arms" however, and that cry should be effective, the matter would be equally and irrevocably settled. But enough of this.

His own plan contained three elements of adjustment. He would now say in advance, that he looked upon the scheme introduced by the gentleman from Baltimore, (Mr Brent,) as one of the wildest and most chimerical schemes that could ever have emanated from a gentleman of his intelligence; being founded upon representation according to population. It was a principle which could not be carried practically into effect. He would be willing to let the gentleman figure out the plan. It would fail, because theory and practice would not harmonise. There was but one way in which there could be representation according to population; and that was to obliterate the county lines, and to let the whole State vote *en masse* and by general ticket. There was one representative in Maryland thus elected—the Governor of the State. To retain the county lines it was impossible strictly to give representation according to population as the gentleman had argued. Fractions would destroy the plan, and when once broken his theory was gone. It could not be done, and in his own scheme he had not pretended to do it. He had suggested a plan, however, which would approximate towards it; and that was all that could be done.

His first proposition was, that whenever Allegany county, the largest territorial county in the State, should have attained a sufficient population, it should be divided. The number would be 9000 inhabitants, as that number would correspond very nearly with some of the smaller counties.

The second proposition was one intended to secure protection to the small counties. This he conceived to be one of the first objects of Government, to protect the weak against the strong. The strong needed no protection. They could protect themselves. It was the principle of law to protect the weak. It was the principle of nature; for no man could see a strong man about to strike down a weak man, without instantly rushing to the rescue. This principle ought to be carried out in the State, to protect the weaker sections against the overwhelming power of the strong. His plan was to give to every four hundred square miles of territory and to every fraction of over two hundred square miles, one delegate.

Territory, he conceived to be eminently worthy of representation. It was the very first thing required in the State. For territory, governments often went to war. How long had it been since this government had been convulsed by a claim to a wilderness portion of our territory, the north-western border; a difficulty which had been so happily adjusted by the gentleman who honored the Convention with his presence yesterday, (Daniel Webster.) It had then been expected that a war would ensue with the most powerful nation upon earth, but his firmness and genius averted the calamity. To go back further, the clashing interests of territory had shown their

effects between the British and the French settlers prior to the revolutionary war. It was to defend territory that Washington was first sent forth to explore the western wilderness, and to redeem Fort du Quesne. It was to defend the rights of the English against the incroachments of the French. It was to protect territory that a neighboring country had been so recently desolated by war, and the treasure and blood of this country had been poured out as water. It was the simple question of boundary between the Nueces and the Rio Grande. Territory then, he considered eminently worthy to be represented, and ought to form an element of the basis of representation.

The next principle was population. For every ten thousand, and for every fraction over five thousand, one delegate. It was unnecessary to say a word upon that point.

The fourth proposition, based also upon population, was that for every 25,000 inhabitants, and every fraction over 12,500, in a town or city having a municipal government, there should be one delegate; and if the population should reach 300,000 souls, the basis of representation should be one to every 50,000. It would be perceived that he drew a distinction between the counties, and towns with a municipal government; and it was because they were recognized as distinct by the government and laws of the State. It was this distinction alone which had enabled the city of Baltimore, or its railroad, to repudiate the obligation to Washington county, which county was now willing, upon the christian principle, to return good for evil, to commit her interests to the tender mercies of Baltimore. Washington county had had a pledge from the city of Baltimore, or its railroad, of a million of dollars. The payment was refused. An appeal was made to the courts, and they decided that the county had only a political and not a municipal government, and could not, therefore, receive the money. Upon this quibble of law, had this solemn obligation of the Baltimore railroad been repudiated.

Mr. PRESSMAN requested permission to ask a question.

Mr. DAVIS preferred to proceed. He believed there was already sufficient power in the hands of the cities, by its police, and in regulating the trade of the country, to require some offset—some reduction from an equal representation with the counties.

The principles of the plan he had presented, had been approved by reform men before it had been submitted here. It was a platform upon which the reform movement of 1836 had started. The idea was first to give representation according to population. In the Executive that was granted. Now they wanted to abolish the council; also granted. Then to elect a Senator from each county by the people. He will read exactly what was desired, lest he might not correctly state the ground taken.

Mr. BUCHANAN. From what does the gentleman read?