

give us to part with our political power. Of what avail is that provision of the Constitution, when we give them a controlling power in the State, and consequently the ability to change it? Sir, I have not much confidence in constitutional securities, unless power is lodged in the hands of those for whose benefit such securities are given, to prevent a change of the Constitution. This provision of the Constitution which we are told will be an ample defence against every attack on this interest, may be changed with the same ease, and almost with the same rapidity of an ordinary act of Assembly. And who doubts that it will be changed, if we yield to the demands now made upon us?

Mr. President, I utter my own feelings, and I believe, the feelings of those whom I represent, when I say, we are not attached to slavery for the sake of slavery. We are not enamoured of its beauties. We are fully aware of its evils, and can appreciate the better fortune of that society in which it never existed. But, sir, the time has long gone by when we are permitted to look at the subject in that light. We have it among us; we have had it for almost or quite two centuries. It has become interwoven with our habits and our interests; it forms a part of our domestic associations; our means are invested in it, and a mutual dependance has grown up between the races. Sir, this association, if not inseparable, cannot at least be severed without a convulsion, the extent and consequences of which no man can estimate. It would cause the amputation of an important limb of society, which would involve health, if not the existence of the whole body. How is it to be done? In emancipation, to remain among us, we see greater evils than even in slavery itself. At the forcible expulsion of the black race, the heart revolts as an act of unmitigated cruelty, and asks, where will they find an asylum? The history of the world furnishes no instance, except by the miraculous interposition of Divine Providence, where any country has been got rid of its entire population, or of an entire class of its population, by voluntary emigration and colonization, and demonstrates the utter inadequacy of that means to rid us of our black population. How, then, are we to get rid of slavery? Is it not more tolerable and more humane to continue it, than to adopt any of the modes of ridding ourselves, which have been suggested? And, while it continues as it does, from necessity, why shall it not have the political weight which belongs to it, and which has heretofore been accorded to it.

Mr. President, in apportioning political power in this State, we cannot overlook the city of Baltimore. We are forced to consider the magnitude and probable increase of that city; the character of her population; her relations to other portions of the State, and how far her interests are in harmony with the State at large; and the dangers to be apprehended from her power.

Baltimore city now numbers 169,012 inhabitants—very nearly one-third of the whole population of the State. The increase has been, and

is, progressing with an almost incredible rapidity. I read from a table compiled from the census, from 1790 to 1850, both inclusive, from which the rapid growth of Baltimore appears:

	Slaves	F. Col	White.	Total.
1790, .	1,250	323	11,925	13,503
1800, .	2,843	2,771	20,900	26,514
1810, .	4,672	5,671	36,212	46,555
1820, .	4,357	10,326	48,055	62,739
1830, .	4,120	14,391	61,710	80,620
1840, .	3,199	17,967	81,147	102,313
1850, .	2,940	24,665	141,440	169,012

The increase of the city, is out of all proportion with the increase of the residue of the State. In 1790, the population of the whole State, exclusive of the city of Baltimore, was three hundred and six thousand two hundred and twenty-five; in 1850, it was four hundred and thirteen thousand nine hundred and sixty-two; which is an increase of not quite one-third in the same time. The population of the city, has increased more than twelve and a half times. At the same ratio of increase, and we find that at every decennial period, it has proceeded with increased rapidity, it will not be long before the city will have a population equal to the whole State beside. During the present century this will probably be the case.

If, then, this city is to have a representation according to population, which she now claims, it will not be long before she will have an absolute majority in the legislature, and the whole government of the State will be under her uncontrolled dominion. It is true, the particular measure I am now considering does not propose to give her so large an influence; but it departs almost entirely from the principle of territorial representation, and advocates numbers as the true basis for the rural districts; and if this be proper, no reason can be assigned, why it ought not to be applied to the city.

In determining what power may safely be entrusted to the city of Baltimore, we are necessarily led to consider of what materials her vast and increasing population is composed. It cannot be denied, that a very large portion of her population is made up of foreigners, who are not yet entitled to the privileges of American citizens; and another large portion, is composed of a shifting and unstable mass, who are mere sojourners here to-day and gone to-morrow. These classes have no real interest in the affairs of Maryland—they are entitled to no part of her glory and renown—her prosperity will not enhance their fortunes, and they will not share her reverses. On no just principle ought they to be enumerated to increase her political weight. Again, while it is admitted that the people of Baltimore, are not inferior to the population of an other city, of the same or greater magnitude, in all the qualities which constitute a good citizen.