

of society. Then why was it demanded? There was a motive somewhere; what was it? What induced the entire Democratic party to favor this change? What was it that induced the gentlemen from Caroline, and Talbot, and Queen Anne's, to vote for a reduction of the representation from those counties. The people of those counties certainly do not desire any such reduction, and cannot be benefited by it. Sir, it cannot be doubted that they are struggling for party ascendancy.

The gentleman from Montgomery, (Mr. Kilgour,) was right when he denounced this whole matter as an effort on the part of the Democratic party on this to gain party power. Our friends from the counties referred to, professed to oppose the doctrine of representation based on population simply. They are unwilling to give to Baltimore all she asks, but yet, they will yield their principles just far enough to secure a majority, in the House of Delegates, of their party. Sir, I repeat, it is an exchange of local security for party power.

Mr. President, gentlemen may find their reward, they may, for their services here, become the objects of party patronage; they may be elevated to high and distinguished positions, but when the excitements of the day shall have passed, as soon they will, and their constituents shall have learned at what cost the triumph was purchased, these gentlemen may well fear the displeasure of an injured and indignant people. And, sir, what has the gentleman from Washington, (Mr. Fiery,) and those of his way of thinking, who are now acting with him, to gain by the course they are now pursuing. They came here with no sympathy with the great body of those with whom they are now acting. There is now no bond of union between them save this vague name of reform, which I have shown has no practical meaning, so far as this question is concerned, except to re-cast the party balances and injure one half the State without benefiting the other. Then, why this association? Did not the gentleman, and those to whom I have referred, come here pledged not to increase the weight of Baltimore city beyond the largest county? Why depart from that pledge? Will those, by whose favor they have seats on this floor, justify their course? Will they sustain and approve the course of the gentleman and his friends in combining with their enemies to injure and ruin their friends?

Mr. President, I have occupied much more of the time of the Convention than I anticipated; much more, perhaps, than was desirable. I thank the Convention for the patient attention with which I have been listened to. I have now performed, very imperfectly it is true, the task I had prescribed for myself. In conclusion, allow me to say, that I earnestly pray that this body may be guided by wisdom and patriotism; that justice, forbearance and a sense of right may here prevail, and that our action may redound to the safety, and honor, and glory of Maryland.

Mr. JAMES said:

That he did not intend to discuss the propriety of calling a Convention. It was sufficient for

him that he was there, sent by his constituents to represent their interests. He would as far as it was in his power protect those interests, at the same time that he was anxious to do justice to all sections of the State; and although he might differ from some of his constituents, his colleagues and others, he felt a consciousness that the course he had pursued and intended to pursue upon this absorbing question of representation, was best calculated to promote their interests.

He did not mean to make any apology for the remarks he would submit here, nor did he mean to place himself in any other than on correct ground; and if he could have been allowed to give a vote on all those questions, without being misinterpreted, he would not now have spoken. He had looked at this matter with intense anxiety, as he had no doubt every member of the Convention had; and permit him to say, that very great injustice had done him by a misconstruction if not misrepresentation of his course. Antipathies had been created and efforts made to prejudice him, because he did not agree with other gentlemen, with whom he had been accustomed to act politically.

If there was any one thing more than another which had prejudiced Baltimore city and the larger counties against the smaller counties, and the smaller counties against Baltimore city and the others—it was the course adopted by some of their representatives here on this floor. Day after day have they assumed an antagonistical position, and claimed for Baltimore the balance of power over the whole State.

He, (Mr. J.,) came here with no prejudices against Baltimore. He did not know that there was a gentleman in the Convention who did not desire to see her flourish as the great emporium of the State—but never to give her the whole control of it.

He knew the course pursued by him from the commencement of the session to the present time was not satisfactory to either of the extremes, and that efforts had been made to place him in a false attitude, merely because he was disposed to settle this question of representation in a spirit of compromise.

He meant to put himself right with regard to those ungenerous insinuations. He came here as a member of this Convention, standing upon different grounds from that of other gentlemen. Nearly all of them were elected pledged to party purposes. He was elected, whilst denouncing all who desired to frame a Constitution for the people of Maryland upon party principles. He declined being elected upon those terms. He was elected irrespective of parties. He intended to carry out the principle which he advocated upon becoming a candidate. He could have been elected without trouble, and with much more comfort to himself, had he consented to take a party stand. In one of the strongest Whig counties of the State he stood alone. So far from administering to popular clamor, he took ground against it, and was elected, as he believed every representative should have been, untrammelled