

were apt. to look at home, regardless of the interests of other sections of the State.

Mr. DORSEY assured the Convention that he did not make his calculations with a view to Anne Arundel county. They had no such notions in their county. He had always acted as a representative of the State, not as a representative of a county.

Mr. JENIFER said, that he should be wanting in respect to himself, as well as to the venerable and learned gentleman, if he could impute any improper motives. He had said that the gentleman was a worthy representative to take care of his constituents; let others take care of themselves.

Therefore, he did not think he was traveling out of the way, when he said that gentlemen had done justice to themselves in thus representing their constituents.

He was perfectly willing, if the plan of the gentleman from Kent should not succeed, to go for the proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore county, [Mr. Ridgely,] with the amendment he had proposed, which with districting the city of Baltimore, would afford a fair opportunity for the minority to be represented as well as the majority.

He would now see how they would stand, if that system should be adopted. We would have to refer to the position assumed first by the gentlemen from Frederick, [Messrs. Thomas and Johnson] who took the ground that the State should be districted, carried out by the gentleman from Allegany, [Mr. Weber,] and by others that the minority should be represented.

Mr. J. agreed with gentlemen that the minority in a State or city, should be represented. That the district system was the true republican one, and as far as could be carried out, with convenience to the people and the protection of their interests, should be adopted.

In laying off a new State, it should always be applied so as to afford as near an approximation to the popular vote as possible. The State of Maryland, with the exception of the city of Baltimore, is districted. The thirteen counties of the Western, and the eight counties of the Eastern Shore, are so many districts; from the Allegany to the seaboard, all the various interests are represented by twenty-one counties or districts, so that every portion of the State within these limits, has its direct interest represented. Each county is one and identical in its interests—all agricultural. Not so with the city of Baltimore. In it their interests are various, and in some respects conflicting. The commerce, shipping, manufacturing, mechanical, laboring and foreign interest, should be represented, which cannot be the case under the general ticket system. A fair opportunity will now be afforded, by laying off the twenty wards into ten electoral districts; all can then be heard in the Legislature of the State, by their immediate representatives. Here the naturalized foreigners can at least have a chance of being heard through their own naturalized representatives. Now, the sincerity of gentlemen, if they are in

earnest, can be tested, by placing the naturalized citizen upon a par with the native born. Let them have a delegate of their own from Fell's Point, and other districts, elected by themselves.

But no; the district system gentlemen will not advocate, unless a new one is adopted to district the whole State—that Baltimore would lose her political party power by being divided. Mr. J. said he would call the attention of the Convention to the present aspect of parties in the State. The population of the State of Maryland is 585,000. That of the city of Baltimore 170,000, which divided into ten districts would give to each 17,000; leaving for the remainder 415,000; of this number the Eastern Shore has 130,000 which is divided into 8 electoral districts which give a few more than 1700 to each. The Western Shore, exclusive of Baltimore, has a population of 275,000, which being divided into thirteen electoral districts, gives a few more than 2,000 to each.

The eight counties or districts on the eastern shore are divided in party politics, according to the last election, as follows:

*Democratic*.—Cecil, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Talbot.

*Whig*—Kent, Dorchester, Somerset, Worcester.

Thus, both political parties are respectively represented from that shore. But were they, like the city of Baltimore, elected by general ticket, there would not be one Democratic representative from the whole of that shore, and we should be debarred the benefit of the talents of the distinguished gentlemen who now represent those counties in this Convention.

A similar state of things is presented on the western shore. Thirteen counties, with a population of 275,000, were nearly equally divided as to political party in this House—were the election by general ticket, not one Democratic member would be found on this floor or in the House of Delegates. The western and eastern shore are cut up politically by having the minority represented, whilst it is for the city of Baltimore alone to present an undivided front, with a population of 170,000—the minority of at least 80,000 having no will.

Again, the aggregate number of voters in the city of Baltimore, is put down at 23,000—that was about the vote at the late gubernatorial election—when the majority was less than 1500. Thus, it appears, that with ten delegates elected by general ticket, 12,000 voters, out of 23,000, have no voice in the Legislature of this State. Adopt the same principle throughout the whole State, by merging the minority, and you would have, according to Mr. Fiery's bill, sixty-three Whigs in the House of Delegates—ten Democrats.

Mr. J. said it was time to throw party calculations and distinctions out of the question. Look at the city of Baltimore as the great metropolis of the State, in the prosperity of which, every Marylander, of whatever occupation, has an interest. Let us do justice to her, and let her do justice to herself. Give to her as many dele-