

among such a number, there would spring up dissensions, which would greatly impair their influence and divide their strength. I therefore believe, that it is not for the interest of Baltimore herself to have even the increase that I am willing to allow.

On the other hand, is it possible, Mr. President, that allowing Baltimore ten delegates could injure any other section of the State? I cannot think so. My great object, in fact, in the course I pursue, is to protect the counties. I do not pretend that this increase of representation is to be given to Baltimore as a matter of absolute right. I regard the subject as one of political arrangement to be made for the good of the whole. It is the interest of the counties, and especially of the smaller counties, that this question should be settled now, that it should be put to rest for the next twenty years at least. It would be a great misfortune if this opportunity were suffered to pass unimproved; for I am confident, that better terms can now be obtained for the counties than could be obtained at any future time. It must be remembered, that when the present apportionment was made, in 1836, the city of Baltimore contained little more than half its present population. The census of 1830 gave her 80,000 souls; that of 1850, about 170,000. She is yearly increasing, by an accelerating ratio, both in wealth and numbers. Her power and influence some years hence may become overwhelming; and then it would be a subject of deep regret with the counties that this Convention had made no satisfactory compromise.

Should we make no such compromise now, the new Constitution will certainly be rejected, the agitation will soon be recommenced, and the result, I apprehend, will be—what is so much dreaded—representation according to population through the whole State. Such is my solemn conviction; and I consider it my duty to ward off this evil in the best manner the circumstances around me will permit. I am confirmed in this view by what I observe not only at home, but in all the surrounding States. I allude to the rapid progress of radicalism, which is spreading in a torrent flood over the whole country.

One of its cardinal principles is the right of a bare majority of numbers to govern; and the necessary consequence of that principle is representation strictly according to population. It is then I repeat, for the protection of the counties, that I advocate a compromise at the present time; and I call upon gentlemen to consider well, what would probably be the basis on which the next Convention would be called—supposing this to fail in its purpose—of what materials it would be composed; what additional demands would undoubtedly be made by Baltimore, on account of her constantly increasing population and wealth, and what new subjects of excitement might be brought into another canvass—They may rest assured that the counties never will be able to secure terms so advantageous as may now be secured.

But some of my friends from the smaller counties have said: Must they forever be yield-

ing? they yielded something in 1836, and they are asked to yield more in 1851. Yet, how can they forget the great change that has taken place in the relative wealth and population in the various sections of this State in the last fifteen years? And can they fail to foresee how much greater will be the change in the next twenty years? It is something to their advantage, that fifteen years have been gained by the last arrangement; it will be something more if, the re-agitation of the question can be prevented for twenty years to come by the action of this Convention. Every crisis must be managed by those whom Providence calls upon to deal with it. As the "dead past" may "bury its dead," so let the remote future take care of the things of that future. For the present, here we stand, and cannot escape from the responsibility which the times and our position have forced upon us. Let us do the best we can, under all the circumstances, and not lament too much over what we are obliged to surrender. I would greatly have preferred that this subject should never have been agitated at all; I would have been pleased if the people in all parts of the State could have remained content with the old apportionment; but I must deal with facts as I find them.

In estimating the effect of the increase of representation for the city of Baltimore, the counterbalancing fact that an additional senator is given to the counties, by the creation of a new county out of Howard district, ought not to be overlooked. That is nearly, if not quite, an equivalent to what is surrendered. Besides, such severe restrictions have already been imposed by us upon the powers of the Legislature, that almost all danger of the passage of laws injurious to any considerable portion of the State, is entirely removed. It would be hard to define, how, under the provisions adopted, any oppression could be exercised.

I am in favor, Mr. President, of dividing the counties and the city of Baltimore, each into as many districts as it may be allowed delegates. By such a system the opinions and the feelings of the people are more accurately represented—better delegates could thus be procured, and I am sure that there would be less intrigue in the nomination, and less corruption in the election of candidates. I desire this for the whole State. But if that cannot be obtained, I would still apply it, if I could, to the city of Baltimore. I do not see how that city could complain of such a division. The delegates elected there under the system, would all be from the city, and would represent her various interests even more exactly than if chosen by general ticket. If the system be applied exclusively to the city, it will be because it can be done more satisfactorily where the population is so compact, and the divisions can be so easily defined. I cannot see why this should be spoken of as involving any degradation. It has been insinuated, that party views have suggested this proposition to district the city. Yet we have been told by some of our gravest and wisest men here, that parties are now on the eve of a new formation, and every thing