

schemes of works of internal improvement were projected, and allured by the brilliant prospects of success, pictured in the most glowing colors, by most zealous advocates of the measure, the State was induced to embark her credit in the scheme.

Its failure and consequences have been most woefully felt, and by none so much, as by the southern counties. With her rapid growth of wealth and population, new sources of wealth and trade will be looked for, and discovered, and a fresh impetus will, e'er long, develop new plans and schemes of similar works, which even at this moment, may be in embryo.

The northern and western counties of the State, from their relative location to the city of Baltimore, already brought in close proximity to her, by the iron bonds of rail roads, will desire new and additional facilities for transportation and travel, and will sympathise and act in concert with her, in such new schemes, and again the credit of the State will be embarked if necessary, to carry them out, with a strong probability of a second edition of the direct tax which is now grinding us, under which St. Mary's county alone has already paid nearly two hundred thousand dollars, for the benefit of whom, I will leave others to say, sir.

Interest, the most powerful stimulant to action, will band them together, sir, for the accomplishment of their object, and with the power in their hands, or the means of obtaining it, no obstacle which we can interpose, will have the effect of staying their progress.

This, sir, is no over-wrought picture of the interests and feelings of that portion of the State, which stands arrayed against the interests which we have to guard and protect, not for ourselves alone, but for the benefit of coming generations. It is not with the present alone we have to deal—nor for the present alone, we have to provide.

This, sir, is but the first act of the Conventional drama. Others await us, if I may be allowed to speak in anticipation of the mode likely to be prescribed for revising or reforming the Constitution hereafter. Ten years hence, it may be, the second act will come off. Ten years later, the third and so on.

Now, sir, according to my humble conception of our duty and our interest, we are impelled by both, so to play our part in the present, as to be able to perform our part in the subsequent acts in such a manner as to ensure a continued protection and security to our interests.

But how, sir, shall we be able to do this, if the proposition of the gentleman from Washington be adopted? How does that proposition distribute the representation relatively, between what I call the northern and western portion, and the southern portion of the State? That, sir, is the enquiry by which we are to ascertain what will be our strength in the exhibition of the second act of the drama, which I have just supposed will take place ten years hence.

Including the senatorial representation, this plan gives to Allegany, Washington, Frederick,

Carroll, Harford, Howard, Cecil and Baltimore counties and Baltimore city, an aggregate of fifty-one members for the next Convention, (assuming that the same basis of representation for the next Convention will be adopted, as that upon which the present is formed,) while it gives to the remaining thirteen counties, which I call the southern counties, forty-four. Thus, sir, the northern and western portion of the State will have in the next Convention a clear majority of seven members. They will then be able to accomplish any thing that their combined will may suggest, without the aid of delegates from southern counties. They can then take any additional representation they may desire, in both branches of the legislature. Will they take it? No gentleman will have the temerity to answer. No! The lion will then be uncaged, and free from his toils, and, sir, he will never be satisfied until he gets the lion's share. But wo to those who helped to free him from his toils. That mercy and kindness which he is fabulously said, to have exhibited towards the mouse, as an act of gratitude for having gnawed in two the meshes which entrapped him, need not be counted on by those gentlemen who are about to aid in liberating him, when their interests forbid it. It will not be enquired at the next Convention, whether Caroline, Talbot, Queen Anne's and a portion of Montgomery counties, aided in setting him free, and clothing him with full liberty and power to do whatever his will or interest might prompt. No consideration of that kind will operate favorably to those counties then, on account of their generosity now, for which heaps of the most loving compliments have been lavished upon them. "They have magnanimously consented to disfranchise themselves" says the gentleman of Baltimore county, (Mr. Howard,) "for the sake of compromise." This, indeed, is a magnanimity beyond what I had conceived of. But sir, there is no virtue in such a deed. No necessity for it exists. It is a suicidal magnanimity for which I am at a loss to account, in any other manner than that alleged by the gentleman from Montgomery, (Mr. Kilgour,) and repeated by the gentleman from Somerset, (Mr. Crisfield,) which is by attributing it to a desire to secure the political ascendancy of the democratic party in the legislature. The veil of self-disfranchising magnanimity, which the gentleman from Baltimore county has charitably thrown over them, has proved too flimsy and thin, to conceal the motive. They, too, have been so restless and anxious for its success, that it would stick out from beneath the covering which was intended to hide its deformity. It could not be concealed. Acts speak louder than words, and stand forth in bold relief, telling as plainly as language can speak it, that this is their object. I ask, sir, is it worthy of such a sacrifice? Does this furnish a sufficient reason for self-disfranchisement? Are political parties so stable that they will likely achieve a durable conquest? I will leave these questions for those whom it most concerns, to answer "*in foro conscientia.*"

I cannot bring these remarks to a close, Mr. President, without calling attention to the basis