

over, communicate to the people important geographical information not accessible by any other means. It does therefore, seem to me to be important that we should have this map lithographed.

Mr. THOMAS could not allow the error of the gentleman from Anne Arundel, (Mr. Dorsey,) to go forth without correction. It was true, that the forms of the small election districts might not be preserved with perfect accuracy, but the contiguity of every election district in the State was shown with distinctness. The documents accompanying the map contained the number of the inhabitants, according to the census of each county, the vote for Governor at the last election, in each election district, and the number of each election district. With the aid of these documents the State can readily be divided into single districts. His colleague, (Mr. Johnson,) had submitted a proposition to have the State districted by the Convention. The gentleman from Anne Arundel seemed to signify that that duty should devolve upon the Legislature. He, (Mr. T.) could not vote for a proposition of that character. They were here to make a basis of representation, and if they districted the State it would be permanent. It was more proper that the Convention should fix upon the districts than to devolve it upon the Legislature, who would use it for mere party purposes. How easy it would be for them now to postpone the further consideration of this branch of the Constitution and take up the judiciary question. In the mean time this map could be lithographed, and would come in a form prepared to assist them in disposing of this question. The map was made by a skillful surveyor, who had had the magnanimity to perform the labor for nothing, (he meant the Secretary of State, Mr. O'Neal,) assisted by the delegations on that floor. He supposed there was as much accuracy as could be obtained.

Mr. CRISFIELD said that he understood the gentleman to state that the map had been made out by the aid of the various delegations.

Mr. THOMAS replied that he did not mean that every delegate had been consulted.

Mr. CRISFIELD said that he had not seen it, so far as he was concerned.

Mr. THOMAS replied that he said by the aid of delegations; he did not say that every delegate participated in it, but that the Secretary had been aided by such members as professed to be able to lay off the districts.

Mr. SPENCER said that the map was laid on the table in the committee room, and each delegation, as it passed through, was requested to mark off their districts.

Mr. DORSEY said, that the reasons assigned by his colleague, (Mr. Randall,) ought to satisfy every one, that this Convention, with the information before it, is incompetent to divide the counties into delegate districts, either upon the basis of numbers or any other just principle of representation.

To make such a division, some of the present election districts must be divided by arbitrary lines, and who, by an inspection of the plat before us, and any reliable information which we possess, can, with a semblance of accuracy say, what numbers compose the population of the districted election districts on either side of those lines? Indeed properly to divide (the counties into delegate districts, would, in many, if not in most cases, require that the outlines of the present election districts should be wholly disregarded. It may be said that the members of this body from the several counties could furnish all the information not appearing on the plat. Such information but few of us are able to give. Hack-nied electioneering politicians might be able to do so in their respective counties, but they so often deceive themselves by believing what they wish, that their opinions ought not to be received as sufficient foundation for the action of this body on so important a subject. We are by no means certain that we should represent the wishes of our constituents; we came here under no expression of their will on this subject, and many of us, I apprehend, may not, be at this time, the organ through which the people on this occasion might wish to speak. Every county in this State would, I am inclined to believe, greatly prefer confiding this important power to commissioners of each county, acting only for their own county, and under oath too, with a perfect personal knowledge of every thing they ought to know, to form a correct decision. If we act it is under no security which an oath affords; as to nineteenth-twentieths of us at least without knowledge, and upon faith in revelations which certainly have no *divine* inspiration to commend them to our credence. If this Convention district the counties, party politics will be the controlling influences; which should be deprecated by every just and conservative member of this body. The Legislature acting through its commissioners, is the only tribunal to which such a power can be faithfully confided.

Mr. THOMAS said:

That the map did not contemplate disturbing the boundaries of the election districts at all, but to make them as near as might be contiguous and equal in population.

Mr. DORSEY said:

That for the reasons he had stated, he was entirely opposed to our districting the counties, because acting without the requisite knowledge, it would be impossible to do justice or to approximate to equality of population, and the remarks of the gentleman from Frederick demonstrated it. Nothing would defeat a Constitution sooner than the measure now proposed for adoption by this Convention.

If the counties should think they had been gerrymandered, as he believed they would be, when necessary for party purposes, they would vote against the Constitution on that ground, if on no other. Many of the gentlemen of the Convention might say they were not influenced