

one proposed by the gentleman, except, perhaps, one, which I regret to say, was also presented by a member from the Eastern Shore (Mr. Lloyd), which gives us twenty in a House of eighty-one. Others reduce the actual number of our delegates to twenty, but they also reduce the whole number of the House, thereby giving us a greater proportion of the aggregate amount. Such were the plans and proposals which were pressed by those of us who had earnestly urged the claims of the Eastern Shore, and the small counties on the Western Shore, to protection against the overpowering strength and influence of the large counties and Baltimore city. When defeated and driven from our position, we have from time to time endeavored to take shelter wherever we could find the nearest measure approximating to our wishes and our wants. Any plank in a storm is preferable to a wrecked mariner, to the unprotected surges of the raging billows. And yet, when in an acknowledged condition of outcasts, driven from our altars and our homes, we are taunted with being voluntary applicants for admission to some place of refuge. The speech of the gentleman, if left alone to produce its impression out of this Convention, would lead to the conclusion that our votes on these plans, avowedly taken by us from necessity alone, were the objects of our deliberate choice, and not, as in truth they were, acknowledged evils, but still less evil than others to which we feared we should be forced to submit, and to which we have ultimately been forced to submit; and forced, too, by the agency of that gentleman and others, amongst them, members here representing counties on the Eastern Shore. Sir, said Mr. C., I have a right to complain of this: the little band with whom I have acted, who have faithfully, zealously, perseveringly stood by our oppressed countrymen, have a right to complain of being presented in an attitude utterly unlike that they have occupied. Would the gentleman himself, in a moment of calm reflection, designate such a course by the term he had been pleased to pass across the chamber—would he call this “generosity?” Was there any “generosity” in ascribing to us opinions which were not our opinions? Mr. C. would submit that question to the decision of those who are to pass upon our conduct here. “Federal numbers,” too, had been a subject of remark—yes! “the gentleman from Kent took even Federal numbers.” Why, sir, said Mr. C., has it escaped the recollection of any man here, however oblivious, what has passed in regard to this matter? The facts were known to us all here, and they ought to be known elsewhere. The question of slavery was first brought to our notice from a quarter the least expected. A gentleman from the city of Baltimore (Mr. Pressman) had taken the lead out of the hands of the representatives of the counties more particularly interested in this question, and had submitted a very strong proposition. It was at the moment considered a decided advance in the way of conciliation, and none were even suspicious enough to suppose that some reciprocal concession would be ex-

pected. In due time reports were introduced on the representative question, and amongst others, one by the minority, consisting of the member from Somerset (Mr. Dennis), one from Anne Arundel (Mr. Kent), and myself. Was there any recognition of “federal numbers” in that report? nothing like it, sir. So far from it, that as soon as it was presented, and before it was printed, before it was before the House for its action, it was stoutly assailed, by the same gentleman from the city of Baltimore, as an odious measure, because, forsooth, it did not adopt the basis of “federal numbers.” Was he (Mr. C.) then recreant to the interests of his people? Was he recreant to the interests of the portion of the State most vitally concerned in this question? Did he not, on the contrary, to the best of his poor ability, denounce this hot haste against that interest, as one of the strongest motives to unite it in a fixed purpose of defence against the obvious prejudice which existed in other quarters? Yes, sir, (said Mr. C.) I call every gentleman to testify to the fact, that this first exhibition of hostility to the interests of slave-holders, was rebuked to the utmost extent of my capacity, and a warning solemnly given to all its friends, not to furnish alimony or strength to those who would assail that interest. But, sir, I heard no cheering voice from the gentleman from Queen Anne’s on that occasion. He often instructs us by giving us the intelligent thoughts, the fruits of his age and experience, with the observation of a sound, strong mind, and always in a manner creditable to himself as a debater. But on that occasion he was silent. Nay, sir, since that day the gentleman from Queen Anne’s and the gentleman from Baltimore city have been acting side by side, on various plans of representation, and the gentleman from Queen Anne’s has ultimately proposed a scheme acceptable to the gentleman from Baltimore city, at least accepted by him. This is an epitome of the relations of the gentleman and myself to *this* question, and now, sir, that gentleman says, “the gentleman from Kent took even federal numbers.” Is this another instance of “generosity?” Is this another instance of presenting to my constituents a candid view of my course in relation to “federal numbers?” Sir, (said Mr. C.) I denounced the whole idea of federal numbers in a Slave State, as utterly exceptionable in all its shapes, in every mood and tense, I have battled against it on every occasion and will do so, regarding it as the incipient step to that fanatical and mischievous feeling, which, when indulged and encouraged, ends in nothing short of the ruinous and destructive doctrines of the abolitionist. But, sir, a patient may not always reject a pill because it is bitter. When prostrate upon his back, with but one means open to him to elude the iron grasp of that relentless visitor, whose approach all dread, and dread generally most of all things when instructed by his own feelings, and by the counsels of all around him, that death is inevitable unless he submit to medical treatment, the patient must not reject the healing potion because a bitter element composes the draught. And, sir,