

Dorset, (Mr. Phelps,) that they should now assign delegates to the new county, seemed, at first blush, somewhat reasonable. But Allegany was the most progressing county in Maryland, and he thought that in ten years it was destined to be the most populous, as it was now the most valuable. Pass this bill, and give them the law now asked, and in a few years the population in the proposed new county would entitle her to the delegates allowed the smallest counties. Before that which is now comparatively a wilderness had a population of ten thousand, the residue of Allegany would be larger in population than Frederick. He thought this would be concurred in by every gentleman from Allegany. When under these circumstances—the great inconvenience to be experienced by the people traveling such a distance, and the congregating of a large population in that section of the country—it seemed to him nothing but fair and reasonable, that when the majority of these people voted for a new county, they should have a delegation equal to the smallest county.

Mr. JENIFER said that he would state the reasons which would influence his vote. He was disposed to vote for the proposition now before the Convention, although the representation of Allegany was larger now than she was properly entitled to under any distribution, that county falling short of the rates now proposed to be incorporated in the Constitution. He had not any objection to the division of Alleghany upon the terms proposed, provided it did not entitle her to an increased representation; he thought that if Anne Arundel was divided into two counties, Allegany might be before the next census, entitled to a division of the county for the same purpose that Anne Arundel was, by creating Howard District, now county, for the benefit of local purposes. He proposed to add the following proviso to the report:

“Provided, That the number of delegates in the Legislature from the two counties when divided, be not increased until after the next census.”

Mr. DORSEY desired to correct his friend from Charles, in the comparison he had made between this case and the division of Anne Arundel county. Howard District did not apply to be made a county merely because she had territory without population. It had upwards of 12,000 population, and in addition, had, he believed, between three and four millions of assessable property, upon which it paid taxes. It appeared to him that the reasons assigned by the gentleman from Charles, did not apply—that this was to be made a new county because Howard Howard District was made a county. It had already an existing adequate population, which was constantly increasing; and in addition it did not reduce the county of Anne Arundel below what was reasonable and right, in respect to territorial extent and population: it left the remaining portion of the county with a population of upwards of 20,000. What was the situation of Allegany county now? She already had more Delegates than she ought to have, because a considerable portion of that pop-

ulation, when the census was taken, were not *bona fide* citizens and residents of Allegany county, but merely itinerants and sojourners, temporarily employed on the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, and entitled the county to no increased delegation on account thereof. Allegany county had already obtained more members in the House of Delegates than it was justly and properly entitled to. It was unreasonable, therefore, thus prospectively to provide for a new county being carved out of it.

Mr. JENIFER said he would alter the phraseology of his proviso, to read as follows:

“Provided, the Delegates from the two counties thus divided, shall not be increased by the Legislature until after the next census.”

The question being on agreeing to the amendment,

Mr. BOWIE said that he had not given the subject much attention, but he would say that he thought they should not pass this bill; and he particularly hoped that the whole Eastern Shore and the lower part of the Western Shore, would unite in preventing its passage. What had they done? Look at the bill passed the other day, fixing the ratio of representation. Gentlemen might doubt and question as much as they pleased, (and he did not venture to say that at this time there was any thing like a disposition on the part of the Western counties to abolish slavery; he was willing to take the protestations of gentlemen on that subject;) but those gentlemen told them that there was a growing disposition to get rid of slave labor among the people of that portion of the State.

If the time ever should come (which God in his mercy avert) when this question shall arise in the State of Maryland, the conflict would be between the Western portions of Maryland, the lower counties, and the Eastern Shore. Looking at the basis of representation in this bill, as it now stood, no man could deny the fact that the slave interest had been struck down, irretrievably and for ever struck down. And now, after having thus imposed upon them, and reduced them to this condition, in view of the growing disposition to get rid of slavery, would that convention still put another anti-slave county upon them, with increased representation, and additional power in the Senate? He entreated them not to do it. He called upon all, without respect to party, from every portion of Maryland, even his friends from the Western portion of the State, not to inflict further oppression upon the slave interest. He did not charge them with being unsound now. He hoped it might never take place. But it was as clear as the sun in noonday, that if ever the conflict did take place, it would take place between those two portions of the State. He hoped that no portion of that body would be found at that early day laying the foundation for additional fetters on slave labor. What had been stated by the gentleman from Anne Arundel was true, that a new county, with all its claims to a full representation, would be created in ten years. By this constitutional provision, they had given Allegany county four Delegates for at least ten years. If the county now proposed to be made, should have a population of 10,000, which she was to