

it to those who should come after him, when this generation should have been gathered to their fathers, to say what should be the apportionment in future. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Was it possible to prejudice the Eastern Shore in the face of such facts? Where did this proposition meet with its first opponent upon the constitutional ground? From the distinguished gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers.) Could not that gentleman conceive that the gentleman from Kent would have some pride of opinion? that he would not go before the whole American people and vote for an article in this Constitution which was in his judgment incompatible with the Constitution of the United States? Could not the gentleman conceive that he (Mr. T.) would himself have some pride of opinion, and would be unwilling to vote for an article incompatible with the Constitution of the United States? When political power had been apportioned among the counties he had voted liberally, and very much beyond what the Eastern Shore had any right to claim upon any principle of government that he had ever learned. So in districting for the gubernatorial office, the Eastern Shore with a population of a little over 100,000 had received the same privileges with a part of the Western Shore with a population of over 200,000. But would the Constitution be rejected by the Western Shore on that account? He had not even mooted the question of giving representation according to population in the Senate; and it was conceded on all sides that in the Senate there should be political equality among the counties.

To illustrate further the fallacy contended for, Mr. T. referred to that article in our State Constitution which declares that a citizen who has resided ^{from a major} ~~for~~ six months in a county shall be eligible to ^{operate} ~~enter~~ the House of Delegates, and inquired whether the County Commissioners could require that the delegates should be residents for six months in the several districts within the counties? If a member of the Convention believed that this provision was contrary to the plain provisions of the Constitution of the United States, was he not to have the moral courage to vote against such a proposition, and to signify his opinion, lest there should be a little clamor about surrendering the rights of the counties? Every member of the Convention was solemnly sworn to support the Federal Constitution, and was bound to support it, not only directly, but indirectly, and in all the action here to be subordinate to it. He had merely acted in accordance with his own judgment, and, clamor or no clamor, prejudice or no prejudice, he would not be drawn into the recording of an opinion against the dictates of his own judgment. His constituents had no more power to make him budge a hair's breadth upon such a question than the whole Eastern Shore combined. He had a higher rule for his guidance than the whispering or the huzzas of the multitude. He trusted that the gentleman from Dorchester would do him the justice to admit that he had been governed by higher principles than a mere warfare upon any one section of Maryland. No man ought to be a member of the Convention whose

heart was not large enough to sympathize with the whole State; and he trusted that the gentleman would admit, so far as he was personally concerned, that he had acted according to his views of the requirements of the Constitution.

Mr. Hicks had lived long enough to know that words were one thing and actions another. The honorable gentleman from Frederick had called upon him to mark the great liberality of his course, alluding to his vote upon the apportionment which had just passed. Having been compelled, by domestic affliction, to be absent, he had not been acquainted with that gentleman's course. He did not think, however, upon looking at the records, that it was quite so self-sacrificing as that gentleman seemed to believe; for, as he understood the proposition, population was to be the basis of representation after the year 1860. As to being frightened by the clamor of his constituents, and by loud huzzas, he felt quite as independent as the gentleman himself. He would utterly disregard all complaints and applause, except so far as it would be due on account of any conscientious and just effort he might make here as a member of this Convention. The gentlemen from Frederick and from Kent might have a pride of profession as constitutional lawyers. He had no such pride. He had a pride in those gentlemen, as men of ability; but he had a more just pride than that of opinion. It was a pride which led him to do what he believed to be right, and to look to the first law of Nature—self-preservation. His pride consisted in doing what he believed to be even-handed justice, not only to the Western, but the Eastern Shore of Maryland; and from that point he would not diverge one inch, but would defend it with whatever ability had been given him by the God of Nature, to his last moment. He had not come here from his own seeking. He had been sent by the people of his county, because they believed he would fearlessly do what he thought would result most for their interests. He asked no boons, nor would he give any beyond what was right. All he asked was for the rights of the Eastern Shore to be preserved, and for those he would contend to the last.

Looking at the apportionment passed a few days ago, it would be seen that the Eastern Shore had lost. But had Frederick county lost anything? Would it lose anything hereafter by that arrangement? Not at all. Was there no infringement of the power possessed now, under the present constitution, and in all previous time, by the Eastern Shore? He was not willing to yield up every thing under a scheme that would ask, "How art thou, my brother?" and at the same time stab under the fifth rib their rights and all their interests. He would not yield up all. In his opinion, the argument of the gentleman from Prince George's was unanswerable; but he would not enter into the discussion of the constitutionality of the amendment. He believed it to be right, and that it was essential for the protection of the interests of the Eastern Shore.

Mr. JAMES U. DENNIS would ask the indulgence of the Convention but for a few minutes, to allow him briefly to explain the reasons for