

cient reason for requiring the new counties to have so large a population as fifteen thousand. He hoped that the gentleman from Washington, would withdraw his amendment, and that the matter in regard to the new counties, having a population of ten thousand, and which should also have a certain extent of territory, would be reconsidered. By a proper arrangement, all the good counties of the Eastern Shore, which he believed were second in point of territory to the county of Allegany, would have an opportunity of making provision for the erection of new counties upon a proper and correct basis. He thought the geographical interests of the State would be to form new counties wherever they could protect themselves against the inroads of the city of Baltimore.

The question recurring on the reconsideration of the vote, filling the first blank with fifteen thousand, it was found that no quorum was voting.

Ayes 23, noes 23—

No quorum voting.

The question was then taken on the motion of Mr. JOHN NEWCOMER, to reconsider the vote of the Convention on the amendment offered by him to the section, filling the blank with "fifteen thousand."

Mr. KILGOUR demanded the yeas and nays;
Which were ordered and taken,

And resulted as follows:

Affirmative—Messrs Chapman, Pres't, Blakistone Hopewell, Ricaud, Chambers, of Kent, Randall, Buchanan, John Dennis, James U. Dennis, Dashiell, Williams, Hicks, Hodson, McCullough, Bowie, Sprigg, Dirickson, McMaster, Hearn, Stephenson, Nelson, Thawley, Stewart, of Caroline, Gwinn, Brent, of Baltimore city, Sherwood of Baltimore city, Ware, John Newcomer, Michael Newcomer, Davis, Kilgour and Waters—31

Negative—Messrs. Donaldson, Dorsey, Sellman, Howard, Welch, Dickinson, Sherwood of Talbot, Colston, George, Biser, Annan, McHenry, Schley, Fiery, Anderson, Weber, Hollyday, Slicer, Fitzpatrick, Smith, Shower, Cockey and Brown—23.

So the Convention reconsidered their vote.

Mr. JOHN NEWCOMER then moved to amend the twenty-third section, by filling the first blank therein with "twenty thousand."

Mr. BISER had been somewhat amused at the motion of the gentleman from Washington county, (Mr John Newcomer,) in presenting as the basis of a new county a population of twenty thousand. If that gentleman would look to the population of Howard county, which was now entitled to all the rights and privileges that any other county in the State enjoyed, according to its population, he would find that the population there was a little upwards of ten thousand. And, if the gentleman looked to Calvert county, he would find a population of about nine thousand.

Mr. JOHN NEWCOMER, (interposing,) said, he did not desire a new county with much less than twenty thousand inhabitants.

Mr. BISER remarked that if the gentleman from Washington inserted in the Constitution that a county should not have less than twenty thousand inhabitants, it was in effect, to deny to that county the rights and privileges which were granted to Howard, Calvert and other counties in the State. He, [Mr. B.,] was not standing there to advocate or oppose the creation of new counties, but he desired to see a uniform system adopted throughout the State, whether the basis was fixed at ten or twenty thousand. He wished his own section of the State to stand on a perfect equality with all the other parts of it. Whenever his people should express at the ballot-box their desire to have a new county—when it was certain there was an undoubted majority in favor of a new county, then he would ask the same privilege for his constituents as was asked by other gentlemen on behalf of theirs. He could not unite with his friend from Allegany, [Mr. Smith,] in his contemplated amendment to annex territory to population. He, [Mr. B.,] was opposed to the representation of territory, although upon the compromise in voting for a basis of representation, and being under the necessity of passing something as plausible as they could make it, territory was taken into consideration.

Mr. SMITH explained that he was opposed to territorial representation as well as the gentleman, but what he meant to say was, that counties should not be formed unless they had the requisite population and a certain extent of territory also.

Mr. BISER was obliged to the gentleman for his statement, but for the life of him he could not see why a dense population of fifteen thousand in any section of the State, when their opinion was clearly ascertained and expressed at the ballot-box, should not be entitled to the same privileges and advantages as a like number of people living in another section of the State. If it was the good fortune of any sections of the State to be more densely populated than others, they should not be deprived of equal rights and privileges merely on account of the smallness of their territory. Those were simply the reasons which would govern his votes, and he would not commit himself for or against any new county now in contemplation. His desire was to have a Constitution so far as his vote was concerned, fair and uniform in its provisions in reference to every portion and county of the State. He had ever been, and should ever be, an advocate of the majority of the people. Whenever his constituents were in favor of a project—their desire being clear and undoubted—certainly he was then with that majority. Whenever they should express their opinion for an additional county, formed out of the counties of Washington and Frederick, for instance, and a majority of the voters living within the contemplated bounds of it being in favor of the project, he desired to place them in the same condition and on the same platform as other people of the State were.

The question recurring on Mr. JOHN NEWCOMER's amendment, to fill the first blank, in the 23d section, with "twenty thousand,"