

antagonist, while there is a general combination in hostility to the city of Baltimore! Members almost daily indulge in violent denunciations and apply epithets of the most derogatory character to those portions of their own Maryland which they view with jealous dislike.

In this connexion, I cannot help adverting to the astonishment with which I heard the other day from the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. Bowie,) that the different branches of industry are hostile to each other; that one class of the community (the one, sir, to which I have the honor to belong) is alone productive, and that all the other classes are engaged only in consuming the product of the agriculturist! This a lesson in political economy which I little expected to learn in a constitutional Convention of the State of Maryland, and much less from the gentleman from Prince George's, whom I have always believed to be actuated by the kindest and most amiable feelings towards all persons and classes. He, (Mr. Bowie) denounces the commercial interest as an enemy to the prosperity of the State, and particularly to the agricultural interest; as feeding upon the vitals of this latter, as drawing to its heart, (Baltimore,) the life blood of the community, which there coagulates! If this be so, I should have supposed that speedy death would ensue to the commercial interest itself! I am unable to perceive how this settling of the blood, this concentration of the vital element in that part, would permit the animal to continue to live, (laughter;) but should have supposed that its ant death would have occurred.

Sir, these dissensions and recriminations, between Western and Southern counties, Eastern and Western shores and the various sectional factions into which members segregate themselves, have continued, until my heart has sunk within me, as I have listened to these discussions. For, if this small patch of land, upon the great area occupied by this glorious confederacy, can be thus divided against itself, thus distracted by petty local rivalries and jealousies, what must be the fate of our widely extended country, rife with dissensions of a similar character, only on a greater scale, and not bound together by the same indissoluble ties—a common social organization and affinities originating in memories of the past, while firmly cemented by all hopes for the future!

I confess, sir, that I was very much gratified when, on a late occasion, my respected friend from Baltimore county, (Mr. Howard,) reproved our bickerings and strife, as became a true-hearted Marylander; and most effectively rebuked in the catholic spirit which has uniformly distinguished those who won that name, those displays of sectional animosity which have been so unfortunately common. Several other members have, though not quite so pointedly, uttered similar sentiment—and many gentlemen, in debate have uniformly a conciliatory tone towards all divisions of the State. But, as a general rule, there has been manifested here such a remarkable amount of bitter sectional feeling, that a stranger would scarcely believe us to be members of the

same political family, associated by all those bonds of memory and reciprocal advantage which ought to constitute a united brotherhood. It is in this point of view, among others, as I have endeavored to show, that the harmonising influences of the veto power are peculiarly applicable to the condition of our State. If its possession and exercise would tend, (as I have high authority to prove,) to repress these sectional antipathies and heart-burnings, by preventing partial and oppressive legislation, it is evident that a great good would thereby be obtained.

If, sir, the apportionment question had been differently settled, there would still have been ample motives for according this limited negative to our Executive. But, as that question has been settled, there is considerable reason to apprehend that the city of Baltimore, influenced by formidable adverse combinations, may vote against the new Constitution, unless this bridle to the power of the minority shall be incorporated in that instrument. Wherefore, I invoke all who desire to secure the adoption of the work of so many anxious hours, the fruit of our painfully protracted labors, for the sake of the important reforms which we have already agreed on, to engraft this veto power. It will tend, perhaps, as much as any thing else, to tranquilise the people of that city, which, under the various and potent influences likely to be brought to bear, may otherwise, by a decisive majority, reject the frame of government to be recommended by this Convention.

I had intended, sir, to have entered much more at large into the subject of the apportionment of representation, as connected with the question under consideration. But I have already detained the Convention so long that I will refrain.

Permit me, however, to specify more fully, a few reasons why the small counties should particularly desire the creation of this veto power. The first is the protection it will afford, from the continually increasing numerical predominance in the legislature, which the representatives of the city of Baltimore and the larger counties will, in all probability, acquire. Although there is not, in my opinion, any proper or well founded antagonism between any of the different portions of the State, certainly the occupations and habits of the population of the several minor counties are very diverse; and there are no strong affinities by which they can be united in a common league against the ambition of their more powerful neighbors. Their surest safe-guard will be the executive arm, if endowed with the protective power with which I ask you to clothe it.

The second motive which I commend to your consideration, gentlemen of the small counties, as an inducement to render solid the constitution by this conservative element, is, that by it would be met and counteracted, more effectually, perhaps, than in any other way, the tremendous indirect weight and influence of the city of Baltimore, so much complained of in times past, when it had not attained its present magnitude. Even