

tion of the same kind was then made, and the gentleman accepted it promptly. My suggestion, however, was received in a very different tone. The reply to it was a question whether we are to have this question eternally mooted, and I am taunted with a desire to press and urge, in season and out of season, the pretensions of my part of the State. Now, sir, gentlemen may think it quite a matter of course to assail the Eastern Shore, and fritter away, by piecemeal, the remnant of our political privileges; the taking away some six or seven delegates, for instance, but I do not deem these to be trifling matters. They are far from being so, and if they were, they ought not to be abandoned. The man who did not defend his political rights, when a direct effort was made to deprive him of them, did not deserve to have any. It was in this way by a continued series of small aggressions, that destruction ultimately was brought about.

Mr. C said, although he did not profess to give information upon this subject, yet there was one point on which he had a very fixed and settled purpose, which he did not think any argument here could change, and that was to vote against any measure which, professing to make the entire Eastern Shore one district, should name Harford county as part of it. As to the measure of making four districts, instead of three, he was inclined to go against it. When the change was proposed by the gentleman from Frederick, to make four gubernatorial districts in place of three, he had voted against it, because it was reducing the claims of the Eastern shore from a third to a fourth. It was true there were three members from that shore, two from Talbot and one from Cecil, who had gone for this diminution, but the Convention had testified their opinion of its impropriety by a very decided vote of 46 to 20. He did not so far perceive, from any thing urged in support of it, that this proposition was entitled to more than three Eastern Shore votes.

Mr. THOMAS was sure the gentleman from Kent, [Mr. Chambers,] had not heard all that had passed between the gentleman from Prince George's and himself, in private, which had prepared him for what had passed before the Convention. In this case, it must be recollected that his (Mr. T's.) proposition was drawn up before the alteration had been made in the gubernatorial districts, as stated by the gentleman from Kent. These districts were laid off two or three months ago. Of course he could not foresee that this criticism about Harford county being connected with the Eastern Shore was to be indulged in. On a former occasion he had said that he regarded it as a very unimportant subject. But let us treat of this Eastern Shore claim as men of the present age. Were they to have such a question coming before us when about to reform the judiciary? How was it now—the Eastern Shore of Maryland, with a population of less than 100,000 white inhabitants, and so far as the organization of the judiciary department was concerned, white population was chiefly to be looked to, as slaves were seldom before our courts of justice.

To the whole Eastern Shore together, and add the counties of Anne Arundel and Montgomery, and the bay counties of the Western Shore, and we have about 200,000 of white population who have twelve judges to hold their county courts, while Baltimore city and the other counties of the State, with nearly 350,000 white inhabitants, have only six judges for the same purpose. We of Western Maryland have had to submit to that relation of things for years. That organization of the judiciary took place when the relations of the two sections of the State were entirely different from those that now exist. But were we, when looking at the present state of our population and about to provide a judiciary system for the population of Maryland, not to have the moral courage to insist that the Eastern Shore ought not to have the same weight in the councils of the State as it had fifty or seventy years ago?

He had said before, that the Eastern Shore was one of the most pleasant portions of the whole country, that any man could visit. He was most grateful for unbounded courtesy with which he was treated when on that shore, canvassing for an office he had once held in Maryland, and hoped he would not be considered unmindful of those acts of generous kindness, in resisting what he must consider unfounded claims. Why not, he would enquire, in laying off the congressional districts, say that no part of the Western ought to be connected with the Eastern Shore? No such remonstrance had ever been offered when Harford and the Eastern Shore counties had been formed in a congressional district. Now, when he came to the judiciary, he would ask if it was to be contended that six judges in the Eastern shore were to be continued, because they had them so assigned seventy years ago? He could not but look at this appeal as being one made to a mere prejudice. He would much rather hear from the gentleman from Kent, an argument addressed to our understandings, to show that there was any thing peculiar to the Eastern Shore that entitled its people to an undue proportion of political power. We, of the West, only want to set up four ourselves, and if gentlemen would show that he wanted to subtract one iota of just power, from the Eastern shore or from any other section of the State, he would yield to his argument with the utmost pleasure. But he hoped that his appeals to a mere prejudice would be fruitless.

Suppose Maryland had endowed a College, and had reserved a right to appoint the trustees of that college. It might add very much to the convenience of the trustees and of the faculty, that they should reside in counties contiguous to the institution which they had in charge, would they not think it very strange to hear a gentleman of high position, claim that the Eastern Shore should have at least two trustees taken from her population. He, (Mr. T.) would repeat that if the gentleman from Kent, would show him that by reason of population or territory, the Eastern Shore was entitled to the honor of having more than one member of this board of commissioners, he would acquiesce in the proposed amendment.