

ular and gradual slope, to the general districting of the State including Baltimore city for the benefit of Baltimore city. How was it for the interest of the smaller counties that the State should be districted? If the Convention engrafted this provision upon the Constitution, it would strike out the county lines. There was now given to each county, *eo nomine*, those counties which had always been known to the State, a direct representation, some more and some less, a representation in that character only. A provision was now attempted to be incorporated upon it, by which they were to be cut down into districts. The delegates would not be the representatives of counties; but merely of districts. Could any man conceive of the idea of the representative of a constituency which had never voted for him? Could a man taken from a district of Charles county be considered a representative of that part of Charles county which never voted for him, and which had not the constitutional right to vote for him? He would ask the gentleman from Charles if he knew that he had been supposed to be in favor of the doctrine of representation according to population?

MR. MERRICK. I did not know it.

MR. BOWIE had something to tell him, then. He would not quarrel with the sentiments of that gentleman. He had no doubt that they were as sincere as those of the gentleman from Baltimore city. It was a bold proposition, never thought of before by any one from that section of the country; and it would not be likely to meet with favor there. The proposition now was to district the whole State. The unity and individuality of the counties was to be lost by common consent. Upon that ground could any distinction be drawn between district No. 1, district No. 1000, which might happen to be located in the city of Baltimore. The whole population would be amalgamated into one mass of human beings, with equal powers. The 500 voters in district No. 1, would send a delegate; and upon what principle would the district No. 1000, which happened to be in Baltimore city, and which contained 2000 voters, send but one delegate?

MR. MERRICK. Will the gentleman permit me to ask him a question? The point he makes is, that a member elected from a district could not represent a county. Does he not now consider himself as representing the whole people of Maryland, although elected from Prince George's county? I will ask him further, if he were elected a member of the Congress of the United States, would he not consider himself a representative of the whole State of Maryland, although elected from a particular district?

MR. BOWIE replied in the negative. Under the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, Congress had laid off the districts, but it was beyond the power of Congress to make the member elected from one of those districts a representation of the whole State. He was a representative of the Congressional districts, and of the very district that the Congress of the United States, under the Constitution of the Uni-

ted States made him a representative of. He would be a citizen of the State, but would not be elected by the State. Exactly so would it be with reference to membership in this body. Wherever there was a representative, there must be a constituency to elect and to be represented.

When the whole State was divided into districts, it necessarily led to the principle of representation according to population, a principle regarded by the people, as more than any other "a raw head and bloody bones," the amalgamation of Baltimore city with the entire people of the State. There had been disclaimers from various quarters. The gentleman from Queen Ann's was undoubtedly honest and true to the will and interests and wishes of the people; but had said that no such desire or feeling animated his bosom or theirs. So with gentlemen from Talbot, Caroline, and Carroll. So of Frederick and Washington; and the tops of the Alleghamies had capped the whole with a loud thundering voice that no such principle should ever be tolerated in Maryland as representation according to population. Yet this very principle, so abhorred, so deprecated, so studiously avoided, was now attempted, in an insidious mode to be engrafted upon the Constitution. He would not say it was intended, but this districting of the State would necessarily lead to it in the course of time. What were ten years in the life of a State; and if this principle should be adopted it would be but ten years before there would be another reorganization of the Constitution, upon the very principle that there ought to be representation according to population. No fatality could prevent it. When another cycle of ten years should pass over, it would be done. The present Constitution declared that it should be done excepting in relation to Baltimore city.

Let Baltimore city succeed in breaking down now these county limits, this county unity, this county pride, and then she will be erect, towering to the skies in all the potency of this great doctrine of representation according to population. There never was a nation, there never was a time and there never would be a time, when from the masses of the people, if all mixed together, would emanate any thing else than mere tyranny. The writings of Hamilton, Madison, Jefferson, and all the early writers on this subject, all proved that the tyranny of numbers congregated together, were just as oppressive as as the tyranny of a solitary individual. It would be worse, because the individual might be entitled, while the multitude could not. He would now appeal to this Convention and to the people not to adopt this principle; and if they had honest hearts uncorrupted and unpolluted by all party feeling, they could not resist the appeal.

MR. BRENT, of Baltimore city, said:

That the gentleman from Prince George's had intimated, when discussing the inspection laws, and called to order, that it was a mere ruse on the part of MR. BRENT, to throw him off the track.

He, (Mr. Brent,) was incapable of that; for