

all the judges, and are perfectly satisfied that we shall have one judge for three counties, but still they are not willing to trust the people of the several wards of Baltimore city to elect their own magistrates. I suppose, then, that what they mean is, that all the intelligence of Baltimore city is concentrated in one certain section, within the circumference of the court house circle, but that is not my opinion. I would be perfectly willing to trust all of the wards to elect their own officers. If they have not intelligence now, it is a very good reason why they should go to school, and get it. (Laughter.) As to the objection that they will not have magistrates enough, the proposition of the gentleman from Harford will allow the Legislature to give them five hundred, if that number be necessary to transact the business of the city. He intends to introduce another proposition to make it still broader, to give the Legislature power, if the interest and demands of the people require it, to grant to the citizens of Baltimore city the full benefit of as many magistrates as they may deem necessary. Has the gentleman from Baltimore city reflected that although some wards are not as intelligent as others, the city is increasing with rapid strides? I am inclined to believe that when the city has so little intelligence—

Mr. BRENT. I never said that.

Mr. BLAKISTONE. I understood the gentleman to say that there were wards in which men could not be found competent to fill the office of a justice of the peace.

Mr. BRENT. I never said any thing like it. I said that there were wards in which you could not get gentlemen to serve as justices of the peace.

Mr. BLAKISTONE. If there are any such wards in the city of Baltimore, they must be a very peculiar people. They would have no law business to transact, and all they would have to do, would be to go through the forms. I do not think that the people will elect a man not qualified to hold the office. If they elect one and he declines, this proposition of the gentleman from Harford provides for it, and it also provides for the case where the people cannot find a competent person to serve as justice of the peace. Let the people of the several wards of the city make the experiment, and if they fail to elect their own magistrates, or electing, the persons elected decline to serve, then the power is given to the Governor to appoint and fill vacancies. A power he will be seldom if ever called upon to exercise. "Few die, none resign." When two or three elections roll round, they will be able to hit upon some man who will be willing to accept the office, and fit to fill it. If the people should chance to make a bad selection, the first opportunity that offers, they will apply the proper correction. I am willing to trust them.

Mr. MICHAEL NEWCOMER demanded the previous question.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city. I hope the gentleman will withdraw his demand, in order to enable me to answer the remarks of the gentleman, who has wholly misunderstood me.

Mr. NEWCOMER withdrew the demand for the previous question.

Mr. BRENT. The gentleman from St. Mary's seems to think that I said that there was not intelligence enough in some of the wards of Baltimore city to furnish justices of the peace. I do not see the slightest foundation in what I said for any such construction.

Mr. BLAKISTONE. I so understood the gentleman. I am very glad he has corrected me.

Mr. BRENT. I do not deny that the gentleman so understood me, but I disclaim any foundation for it. I said that in some of these wards I did not believe that they could find gentlemen who would serve as justices of the peace. I mean remote wards, in which laboring men principally live, mechanics who have no disposition to be justices of the peace. But there is not a ward in Baltimore where we have not intelligence enough for much higher offices than justices of the peace. This proposition to divide the city of Baltimore into twenty districts for the election of magistrates, seems to me to be a part of this scheme of districting Baltimore city. I go for a general ticket. But some gentlemen have a holy horror of a general ticket in Baltimore or in Maryland. We have none. I desire a general ticket in Baltimore, so that we may select our officers from the very best men in the city, and bring the whole vote to bear upon them.

I can only say, in regard to the proposition of the gentleman from Harford, it does seem to me, that in proportion as you indefinitely increase the number, will you reduce the value of the office; and if the fees are to be divided among so many, good men will not accept the office. I desire to have a reasonable number, so that the fees and emoluments will obtain good men. I renew the previous question, because I am pledged to renew it. If the pledge is withdrawn, I will withdraw the motion.

Mr. NEWCOMER withdrew the pledge, when Mr. BRENT withdrew the motion.

Mr. STEPHENSON moved further to amend the section by inserting after the word "qualified," in the 6th line the following:

"And the Legislature may, from time to time, increase or diminish the number of justices of the peace and constables, to be elected in the several wards and election districts, as the wants and interests of the people may require."

Mr. BROWN moved the previous question, which was seconded.

The question then was put on the adoption of the amendment as offered by Mr. STEPHENSON, and it was agreed to.

The question then recurred on the adoption of the 21st section, as amended.

Mr. GWINN moved that the question be taken by yeas and nays,

Which being ordered, appeared as follows:

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Chapman, Pres't, Morgan, Blakistone, Dent, Hopewell, Ricaud, Lee, Dorsey, Randall, Bond, Howard, Buchanan, Bell, Lloyd, Sherwood, of Talbot, John Dennis, James U. Dennis, Dashiell, Williams, Hicks, Hodson, Goldsborough, Phelps, Miller, Bowie, Sprigg,