

"In order that each and every portion of the State may be fairly represented and its various interest protected in the Legislature for the purpose of electing delegates therein, each county in the State entitled to more than two delegates, and the city of Baltimore shall be divided into separate election districts, of compact contiguous territory or ward in the manner following: The city of Baltimore shall be divided into five districts of compact contiguous territory, each of which shall be entitled to two delegates, and each of the counties having more than two delegates, shall be divided into districts of compact, contiguous territory, as follows: every county now being entitled to three delegates shall be divided into two districts, one of which shall be entitled to two delegates and the other one delegate; and each county having four delegates shall be divided into two districts, each of which shall be entitled to two delegates; and every county having five delegates shall be divided into three districts, two of which shall be entitled to two delegates, and one district to one delegate; and every county having six delegates shall be divided into three districts, each of which shall elect two delegates."

Mr. JOHNSON explained his proposition, and stated that he had not counted figures, nor gone into any hocus pocus calculations as to the result of the system proposed by him. He did not care whether the plan benefitted the Whigs or Democrats. He had gone upon this great and radical republican principle. He had heard voices on this floor, long before the basis of representation was settled, say that they would not give Baltimore a representation beyond the largest counties, unless it should be divided. They had now given her a vote beyond the largest counties, and they had refused to subdivide either her or the counties upon the single district system. As to the little counties, he wished them to stand on their integrity, and give their vote. He had offered this as his ultimatum, and the Whigs could go for or against it, as they chose, and so with the Democrats.

This was not the single district system, and he was willing that the delegates of every county should arrange this matter as they pleased. He was also willing to leave the whole subject to the next Legislature, or divide Baltimore and leave the next Legislature to divide the counties. He offered this proposition in good faith and in high integrity, not counting whether it would give benefit either to the Whigs or Democrats, not thinking about it, not knowing it, and he asked the House to deliberate upon it. He would make no appeal to party, no appeal to sympathy. The thing was either wise or unwise. If it was unwise, it would be condemned. He would leave it to the high intelligence of this Convention, and if there were gentlemen who loved party tricks, and went in for juggling in them, he would not speak to such. They were not worthy of his confidence or conversation at all, and were beneath his reflection. As for himself, he acted upon this subject as upon a high principle.

Mr. MERRICK said that the whole history of

the country showed the pernicious effect of the general ticket system, and particularly would it be pernicious within the limits of this State.— He had no time to argue the general principles of the policy to district the State, but he would be glad, with the permission of the Conversation, to call its attention to the consideration of the operation of this principle and of this system in the United States government, which was very similar in its position and its relation, one part to the other, to the State of Maryland. He had stated a few days since that the government of the United States had experienced the pernicious effects of allowing the large States in the Union to elect representatives to Congress by general ticket; that by it the small States were lost sight of and destroyed of their whole weight and influence in the government, and that a few large States, by means of the general ticket system, were enabled to control the whole action of the federal government, and might be so enabled, even against the will of a large majority of the whole people. The United States was like the State of Maryland, in several particulars. The United States was a very large country, composed of some large States and some small States. The State of Maryland covered a considerable district of country, and was composed of some large counties and some small counties. The United States had secular interests, and the State of Maryland was unfortunately so situated that she might be, at some future time, if not now, divided by secular interests, although she had but a small territory.

If in the federal government, this general ticket system had been found to operate so perniciously that in the wisdom of the Congress of the United States, it was deemed necessary to abolish it, and to establish the district system, it might very likely operate perniciously in Maryland, and the wisdom of this Convention was now called upon to prevent this pernicious action. He would ask the House, to look at the late alarming agitation in the Congress of the United States, upon the subject of abolition—that question which had thrilled through the breast of every man in America, and had shaken, and would yet, perhaps shake, this Union to its centre. How did it happen, that the patriotism, intelligence and virtue of the country rallied to the Constitution, and to Southern interests, put down abolitionism, and passed the compromise measures. Did not every man know, that if the Congress of the United States had been elected by general ticket, that the great mass of the people who resided in that portion of the United States which laid north of Mason's & Dixon's line, with that spirit of abolitionism which was so inimical to the interests of Southern institutions, would have elected men who would have opposed the compromise measures which had been adopted for the preservation and safety of the Union, and for the protection of the rights of the Southern people? The Congress of the United States had, in their wisdom, resorted to the district system, and Congress was elected by districts, and the members thus came imbued with the sentiments, feelings, intelligence and