

tion adopt a proposition, after having robbed the people of my county and other portions of the State of their property, which also robs us of our political rights.

Mr. SCALEY (in his seat.) "Robs" you?

Mr. EDELEN. Taking from us our political rights by fixing the apportionment of representation upon this basis. I hope the gentleman understands what I mean. Turn to the journal upon the consideration of the bill of rights (May 30th,) and it will be seen that the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) moved to amend article 22d by adding:

"Provided, That nothing in this article shall be so construed as to prevent the legislature from passing all such laws for the government, regulation and disposition of the free colored population of this State as they may deem necessary."

This was voted down by an overwhelming majority. Here, then, is a solemnly enunciated fact that this convention have set their face unalterably against any attempt upon the part of the people of this State to rid themselves of the incubus of this population. Yet they say, although we debar you of the means of expelling them from counties where they are now so numerous, although they must remain there for all time to come, displacing to that extent white people, still we shall have a basis of representation whereby we shall ever be kept in a hopeless minority.

Here is another thing to which I would hurriedly call the attention of my friends from Baltimore county, in addition to what was said on this subject by the chairman of the minority of the committee, the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Berry.) It is the operation of this rule of distribution adopted by the majority.

Allegany county, with a population of 27,215, has five delegates, and loses only a fraction of 2,215; while Baltimore county, with a population of 46,722, gets only one delegate more than Allegany, although she has a population of 19,507 more white inhabitants, and loses a fraction of 6,722.

I cite this as an illustration of the inequality of the operation of the rule fixing the ratio of representation upon the white basis, and I ask my friends from Baltimore county and other portions of the State, whether they can give their sanction to a rule which allows a county with 19,507 more white population than another, only one more delegate, losing 6,722 by the fraction thrown off?

Now let us look at Frederick county. It has a population of 11,176 more than Allegany, and yet it has only one more delegate.

There seems to be a little management about this rule with regard to Baltimore city. It does not strike one at first sight; but on closer inspection you will see the operation of it. It is a very nice thing to divide Baltimore city into three districts, and to give her

so many representatives for each district. Let gentlemen of the convention scrutinize it closely, and they will see that under this rule of apportionment the three districts of Baltimore city operate like so many counties. Divide Baltimore county into two or more districts, and you will find that it will be entitled to more than six delegates by the rule established by the majority report.

Or if you apply the rule to Baltimore city as an entirety as it is applied to the counties, you will find that the rule will not give her such a representation as the committee have awarded her. Instead of a rule being ascertained and the results derived therefrom, I must say that it looks to me as if the results had been first fixed upon, and the rule made to fit them afterwards. I cannot conceive how it should ever have entered into the minds of gentlemen to make a rule so unequal and unjust in its operation.

Now, what is the minority report? It takes the basis that has been adopted in a vast majority of States of this Union. If there is an unjust discrimination against Baltimore city, I tell my friend, whose name is signed to the majority report as chairman (Mr. Abbott,) that he has set us the example and given us a precedent. But the exclusion of a large city in a small State, from representation according to population, is no new thing. I took the book of "Constitutions" the other morning, and turned to the different States.

In Maine the basis of representation is the whole population, exclusive of foreigners not naturalized and Indians not taxed. Representatives are apportioned to towns by population, but no town shall ever be entitled to more than seven representatives. By this rule a large town or city is excluded from having more than seven representatives.

In Rhode Island the basis of representation is the whole population, allowing to each town at least one member, provided that no town or city shall be entitled to more than one-sixth of the whole number of members of the house. There is the principle, in all its length, breadth, depth, and fullness. There is Providence, a large city in the small State of Rhode Island, which would be entitled to one-third the whole number, but under the operation of this rule she is restricted to one-sixth of the seventy-two members of which the house of representatives of Rhode Island is composed.

In New York the basis of representation is the whole population, exclusive of aliens and persons of color not taxed. Representatives are apportioned according to this population, and by districts in the whole State.

In New Jersey the whole population is the basis.

In Vermont and Pennsylvania, the taxable inhabitants are the basis.

In Delaware, there are seven representa-