

have been called slaveholders may hereafter be deprived of the little political power which under a fair system of representation would be properly apportioned and assigned to them. And not only do you deprive those slaveholders and those counties of that representation which properly they are entitled to upon a fair and just basis, but after having stricken down this property and destroyed it, you adopt a system which is to go into operation for nine or ten years, to prevent this tide of emigration of white men, which they say is to overflow the State, from coming into these sections of the State.

My county has now 20,000 of this colored population, and with the large influx from Washington city and from other sections of Maryland, we shall still have only two representatives. You strike down our just political rights, and for ten years expose us to a ban which will keep back white men from settlement in that section. It is to carry out this principle of hatred against that section of the State. Take the congressional district, and instead of giving it one-fifth of the representation of the State you say that we shall have only one-eighth. We cannot have in the legislature of our own State the voice which the federal Congress accords to us. That is the explanation of this departure from principle.

As for myself I am willing and desire here to say, that neither the majority nor the minority report being founded upon any true or sound principle, they may properly be compromised. If you determine to have proper forms of compromise, then I think other modes should be suggested which would do more justice to all portions of the State. And I will adopt any system of compromise which I think will properly satisfy the rights of all sections of the State.

You have two houses, the senate and the lower house. The senate is the conservative body. The senate preserves the idea of territory, the idea of county lines, and carries out the idea of the original equality of the counties, and is the conservative body for preserving and sustaining their rights. But when we come to the house of delegates, the true basis of representation is population. Here men stand upon the same platform. Here every man's rights will be measured alike and equally. I am willing, if you will carry out the principle of preserving the senatorial basis, to adopt the system of representation according to population throughout the whole State, Baltimore city included with the counties, and to stand upon that as the true theory of representation in this body. Not that you shall elect upon general ticket in Baltimore city her thirty members, if she is entitled to that number; but that you shall district the State, and let each district be parceled out with the same number of inhabitants, and let each district elect a mem-

ber to represent it upon this floor. Give us in the lower house the true principle of representation in one body, representation according to population, and upon a basis which will make every man the constituent of one member of the house by dividing the State into districts:

Mr. ABBOTT. Regardless of county lines?

Mr. CLARKE. My idea is this, that you will have to fix to a certain extent, so many members to each county, according to population, and that then it might be provided in this section, and would create very little inconvenience, not that counties should run into each other, but that counties should be divided into as many districts as they have representatives. There would be very little inaccuracy in preserving the county lines. I have not drawn it out fully; but I have simply drawn it up hastily, since I have seen the disposition here to put the question through, to express my views. I think the presumption from the fact that no man has spoken upon the other side, is that it has been determined to adopt the majority report. My idea of the true representative system, adapted to the State, looking to the true interest of all classes in the State, is this:

"Section 1. Every county of the State and the city of Baltimore shall be entitled to elect one senator, who shall be elected by the qualified voters of the counties and the city of Baltimore respectively, and who shall serve for four years from the day of election.

"Section 2. The legislature, at its first session after the adoption of this constitution, and at its first session after the returns of each national census are published under the authority of Congress, shall apportion the members of the house of delegates among the several counties of the State and the city of Baltimore according to the population of each, provided the whole number of delegates shall never exceed eighty-five members, and provided that each county and said city shall be divided into separate election districts of compact, contiguous territory, the qualified voters in each of which districts shall at the time and in the manner in which delegates are chosen, elect one delegate, who has for one year next before his election been a resident of the district from which he shall be elected.

"Section 3. The apportionment of the delegates among the several counties and the city of Baltimore shall remain the same as provided by the present constitution, until the second election held for members of the house of delegates after the adoption of this constitution.

"Section 4. The general assembly shall hereafter elect United States senators and all officers who are elective by the legislature, by a concurrent vote of the two houses and not by joint ballot."

If that system is adopted, it will preserve,