

which is perfectly palpable. Baltimore has connections everywhere through the State. Its influence is not confined to those who represent her in the councils of the State. There is not a county that has not an interest in Baltimore. They own stocks there of all sorts and sizes; they participate in all her financial operations. There is not a county in the State that has not of some sort or other, some bond of contact or sympathy with the city of Baltimore.

The PRESIDENT announced that the time of the gentleman had expired under the rule.

Mr. MANNING. I did not intend when this debate opened, to say a word upon this subject. But I have been so struck with the injustice of the course of the majority upon this subject, that I cannot refrain from making a few remarks. The gentlemen of the majority of this convention, whenever the opportunity presented itself, have been from the commencement of this convention, preaching into our ears the inhumanity and injustice of the institution of slavery. They have gone as far back as the first slave-ship that introduced slaves in this country; and said that there was no foundation in law for the institution; that there were no parties capable of contracting. They have said that an institution, which every law of the State has recognized as fixed upon a solid foundation, had no legal existence.

Now they have stricken down that institution; they have abolished slavery in the State, and they hold out to the world the idea that they have done a great and magnanimous act, something that they have been struggling for for years and years. They say to the slave—"Now, that you are free, everything in the world is done for you, that ought to be done; you are now a great people; you can now cultivate your minds; you can now rise to an equality with the other races of the earth." Now, I appeal to these gentlemen, in all fairness, if they were enslaved, and were offered freedom with none of the rights of freemen, would they consider they would then be much better off than they were before? I know it is a favorite doctrine with gentlemen that this right of representation, and the right to be a witness is, for a certain class of men, a very small matter, a matter not much to be considered. As long as they, the apostles of liberty, the embodiment of all that is just, and right, and good, are represented in the State of Maryland, everything will be right, and fair, and just, and honorable; the resources of the State will all be developed, and they intend to hold an example up to the world such as all the nations of the earth will admire.

Now, we of these lower counties, do not exactly see all the justice, all the light that they intend to pour upon us, from what we have already had an opportunity of observing. I say that when you strike down the institution of

slavery, when you make slaves freemen, to be consistent in your course you must give them representation. What good will this freedom do them? Where is the justice of putting ideas into the minds of men, of putting ambitious views into their minds; educating them and cultivating them up to a point when they will become a rebellious and restive people amongst us? Yet they are not even to be heard here through white agents or any other. I see no reason for this, except what is now suggested to my mind, that you fear that if you allow these slave counties to be represented according to population, the white men of those counties will still control the legislation of the State, as they have done in times past. Now they will come here with nothing but fairness and justice and honorable principles to present to the consideration of any legislature that may hereafter convene in this State. They will come, as they have always come, asking for nothing but that to which they are justly entitled. And I feel that that is the reason why the majority are unwilling to allow this population to be represented, while they still have white slaves represented. Under the law of your State you have apprentices represented here; and yet you do not want to let negro freemen be represented. Those men whom you say were created equal to white men. You do not intend that they shall even be represented in your legislative halls. Now where is the justice of that? where is the humanity of it? the consistency of it?

I would state, moreover, that it has been the policy, I think, of the party—if there ever heretofore has been such a party in this State as the majority represent—it has been the policy of the delegation from Baltimore city heretofore to struggle to get representation according to population; the history of the State for many years past will show that they have continually harped upon that. They have, to a considerable extent, impressed upon the minds of the people of the State the justice of the views which they have attempted to enforce. And now, when for the first time, the slave counties of the State come up and meet them in all fairness, with the same proposition presented to them by the slave counties, they abandon the theory upon which they have worked for years. I do not see how these gentlemen can go back and face their constituents and say to them: "It is true you have fought for this theory for years and years; and when we were in the convention the delegate from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke,) one of the slaveholding counties that have always been voting against you heretofore, came forward and proposed what you have always demanded as a right, and yet we rejected it." Sensible men will say that hostility to slaveholders was at the bottom of your rejection of this offer. Sift the whole thing and you will find that it is nothing on