

as much entitled to representation as they would be if living in Prince George's or Calvert county. They cast as many votes; and they are entitled to the same representation upon the republican principle. But the people of this State have not reached that principle of justice yet; and therefore I am not prepared to make a fool of myself by trying to get it. The principle established by this report is the best principle, and comes the nearest to the absolutely just principle that every white man is entitled to be represented, the only proper system of representation that can be adopted now. So far as the principle is correct, it is perfectly satisfactory. It proceeds upon the principle of giving to every county a representation to a certain extent according to numbers; but when it comes up to the large counties and the city of Baltimore, one delegate is to represent more people than in the small counties. That is the theory upon which it goes; and the report is perfectly equal so far as the theory is correct. I would be willing to accept the principle that gives the voter everywhere the same representation, whether he resides among great houses or lives out in the fields. The only reason why I favor this particular amendment is that I do not regard it as violating the principle of the report in fact. I do not care much about it. I shall not press it; and as to any other amendment to the report, if it shall be offered, I shall vote against it.

Mr. RIDGELY. I shall vote for this proposition of the gentleman from Kent; and I shall be very frank in stating the reasons why I shall vote for it. I shall vote for it because I believe it will help the constitution in Kent county; and I will vote for any proposition founded upon justice which has such a feature incident to the administration of such justice.

But I shall vote for the proposition to open this article for another reason; that while I believe the rule adopted works in general very equitably, I have never yet known of any rule which was free from exceptions; and I believe exceptional cases will justly arise under any rule that we can devise. If any county can show a case of equity and justice, even though it may contradict the strict letter of the rule, I will vote to enlarge the representation of such county, upon the theory just stated, that it is a case properly of exception to the general rule.

Now I will say with regard to my county, and my whole delegation concur with me, that it will be difficult to sustain ourselves at all with our people. We have been flooded with letters from every quarter of our county, and every county paper has been assailing us and assailing the convention ever since we adopted it. I believe if we had one more in our county it would help our constitution very much; and therefore, while I will vote for one more representative for Kent county, I

shall ask my friends to vote for one more for Baltimore county upon the same principle.

Mr. SOULRY. After very mature deliberation and considerable debate, this report, No. 4, passed through its second reading. All that I have heard since the motion of the gentleman from Kent (Mr. Hollyday) was made, only induces me to believe that it will lead to a repetition of that debate, and a prolongation and delay, if this question is opened again. I believe the rule of this apportionment is equitable; and I am prepared to defend it. I confess, however, that in the case of Kent county, I feel a strong disposition to depart from the strict letter of the provision of the section, for reasons which it is unnecessary for me to recapitulate, but which are very well known to every member of the convention. The opinion prevailed to a great extent I am sure, among those who voted for this section, that Kent county might without any real departure from the rule be awarded two delegates.

I think it probable that since the census was taken, one hundred and fifty-three white persons have settled in Kent; and I think it very probable that if the census were to be taken to-day, she would be entitled to another representative. I believe that that consideration will have great weight with the counties generally; and that they will order at an early day an enumeration of the inhabitants of the State to be made; so that although Kent may complain that in strict justice it is this day entitled to two members, her privation will not be of long duration, if we adhere to the rule. I shall not only vote against giving to Kent county an additional member for this reason, but because I believe it would induce a very unnecessary prolongation of the session and a renewal of the old debate we have already gone through.

Mr. BAISCOM. One word; and I beg pardon of my friend from Kent for undertaking to say a single word in favor of his proposition when the result may very likely be to kill that proposition; as it seems that members of the minority do sometimes kill a proposition by talking it down.

I recollect that when this matter was before the convention, I was about to offer a proposition that no county should have a less representation in the house of delegates than two members; but the previous question was sprung upon me, and I had no opportunity to offer that proposition. Of course that includes the amendment of my friend from Kent, to give his county two representatives.

Gentlemen have talked in this convention about arbitrary rule and about principle. I defy any member of this convention to show me in the representation of any State of this Union, any State which has ever been able to bring down its representation to a mathematical principle. They almost always have a fraction either diminishing or increasing that