

of Baltimore, who was *par excellence* the leader of the idea that representation according to population was the just theory, and even he did not demand it.

Now the question is, as you have not got a principle by which you can govern this, is it fair and right and proper, when you have no demand from the city of Baltimore, as I believe, to give her this representation? I have heard a great many wise men and intelligent men, with whom I have conversed, from the city of Baltimore, say that they believed that when Baltimore city was represented by two intelligent men from that city in the olden time, they controlled more moral power in the legislative halls of your government than all your representatives at present.

I say then, looking at the results, that you have adopted no principle. I have stated why I shall vote for the proposition of the gentleman from Kent, that I want all the small counties to be placed in the same category and to have two representatives each. — I wanted to give my reasons, although what I might say here might very likely have some effect in causing the proposition to be voted down. I leave gentlemen to determine it upon its merits. I had thought that in these families of counties, although I have asked very few things of this convention, that the small people of a family were generally pets; but I have found it otherwise here. The principle of concession that the smaller children of a family are generally treated with more favor than the larger ones, runs through this patriarchal system at any rate. I see no rule by which you have a right to stand up and claim as a matter of right and justice to deny my county two representatives, to send here, that in the contingency of one man being absent, my county may not be for months at a time wholly unrepresented.

Mr. CUSHING. How is it in Delaware in Congress?

Mr. BRISCOB. I say that the rule of representation is adopted in no State in the Union with less exception than in the State of Maryland. So far as the question of representative power of the city of Baltimore is concerned, I know very well that even when Baltimore city was part of a county, with a large rural district attached to her, there was great concern lest she should obtain the control of the State, and the city of Baltimore should become in the State of Maryland what Paris is in France. I have no distrust of her power. I am willing to trust her, if she is willing to accord to me what I believe to be fair and right. See the tendency of this. Thirty to fifty years ago, we gave to Baltimore but few representatives in this hall. She has come here through the counties which have been built up through her prosperity. We have met their representatives in the legislative halls of the State, and we have conceded from time to time to her demands. First she had

two representatives; then some six, and then it went up to ten; and now Baltimore city is here again demanding and asking for political power in this State. I believe that in the end it will result dangerously to the interests of the State of Maryland. I believe it in my heart. I believe that if we go so far in this convention as to make Baltimore the stronghold of political power in this State, controlling the popular elections of the State, we shall live to see the day that we will regret it.

There is always a conflict between labor and capital. It existed under the old government. It has been the subject of much attention; the conflict between labor, or the producing interests of the State, and the capital of the State.

Mr. STRILING. Is there no labor in the city of Baltimore? Is it all capital?

Mr. BRISCOB. I am speaking of the agricultural labor of the State. Those who are engaged in the agricultural department of your State are in opposition to them. I do not say that if principle is properly directed and talent properly controlled, it will lead to evil. But wise men, statesmen, men with the eye of prophecy, never will agree to come under the influence of any one particular class of labor in the State, and to give it an inordinate and overwhelming control in the legislation of the State. For that reason I say that when these gentlemen do not apply the rule of justice to themselves, they should not exclude Kent county and the county of Calvert from the boon we are asking of them. — I think that there should be no representation here for any county, upon grounds of expediency, efficiency, and above all from principles of self-protection, less than two representatives. I do not propose to offer this as an amendment to the proposition of my friend from Kent (Mr. Hollyday,) for I say I am willing to vote for it. But if you adopt that, I hope the convention will permit me to offer this amendment and place myself right on the record. It was ruled out before on the adoption of the previous question, and I had no opportunity to offer it. I do not suppose it will be adopted; but I desire to offer it, to present my claims for my own county, and to represent my own views.

Mr. CUSHING. I moved that so much be considered the third reading of the report, because I knew this amendment would be thrown in upon the house. We have consumed nearly two hours in discussing the question whether this report shall be opened to amendment. The majority of this house, after a long consideration, when the question was open to argument, when the report went through its second reading, section by section, accepted this report as it now stands; and I ask if it is advisable for the majority of this house in any way to amend the report. I have heard no new reason urged for opening it; no fact which was not before us when it was upon its