

general consent. The comparative inequality of the representation of different sections of the State, with respect to population, taxation and business, has been pressed upon the attention of the people and the Legislature for several years past, and, as an evidence of the impression which has been made, in favour of conceding to the more populous sections, an increase of representation and political power, or, in other words, of the admission of the principle of Reform, the General Assembly, at the last annual Session, and but just before it has been so boldly, but untruly, asserted or assumed, that all hope of obtaining Reform in the Constitutional mode, was vain and illusory, passed two Bills, such as had frequently before been rejected, which, when confirmed, will give an increase of six representations to the most populous sections:—two to the City of Baltimore, and four to the people who now compose the Counties of Baltimore and Frederick!!

Can any sane mind believe, under those circumstances, that the real and main object of the recalcitrant electors and their abettors, in the course they have pursued, was reform in the Constitution? But some answer, in substance and truth, can be given to this question. It is as manifest that the ostensible was not the real and main object, as that the assumptions upon which their measures were predicated, were, and are utterly destitute of foundation, untrue, and have been disproved by unquestionable facts.

We feel warranted, by the facts which we have stated, and by the evidences of public sentiment in every quarter of the State, in expressing the fullest confidence, that whenever, and in whatever peaceably and orderly manner, the people of the State shall have clearly indicated the kind and extent of further, just, reasonable and proper amendments desired by them, that their wishes will be carried into effect, in the regular manner, and with as little delay as a just and prudent consideration of, and the necessary action upon them, will admit of.

As a change in the basis of representation, is the great question of reform most generally desired and justly insisted upon, we beg leave to suggest for consideration, as a fair compromise of the conflicting views and interests, in relation to the nature and proper extent of such change, and assented to our condition and local circumstances, that our Constitution, in this respect, be altered so as to conform, as nearly as our circumstances will justify, to that of the United States: that the representation in the House of Delegates be based on population, of Federal number, limited however, by a maximum for the larger Counties, and the City of Baltimore, and by a minimum for the smaller Counties and the City of Annapolis, and that a Senator be allowed to each County, and the City of Baltimore.

And lastly,

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

It is with you to consider of the necessity or expediency of exercising the power with which you are clothed by the Constitution, as the grand Inquest of the State