

in the distribution of the members of the Legislature to the several counties and cities, that a very small minority of the people had perfect control of both branches. This took necessarily and entirely out of the hands of the majority, the whole of the Executive and Legislative power of the State. For a long series of tedious years, the majority continued to remonstrate against this anti-republican and tyrannical organization of the powers of government. Their petitions were not heeded, although the Legislature was especially clothed with the power under the Constitution to remodel and amend it, so as to adapt its provisions to changes, which its framers foresaw, when they were fashioning it more than a half a century ago, would take place in the distribution of the wealth and population of the State. Wearied at last with merely petitioning for a surrender of usurped power, exercised as it often was most unjustly and oppressively by the representatives of a majority of the people, the patriotic and glorious nineteen senatorial electors, in strict conformity with the very language of the constitution devised and executed a movement, intended and well designed to force, if not an entire surrender of inalienable rights, at least some compromise of conflicting claims. The movement was succeeded by amendments to the Constitution, reorganizing the executive and legislative departments of the government. The people were authorized by direct vote to elect a chief magistrate, clothed with all the executive power which his predecessors had possessed. — The House of Delegates was new modeled, so as to make it approximate more nearly than it had done, a body where the popular will could be reflected. The members were also re-appointed amongst the counties and the City of Baltimore, but neither wealth nor population was made the basis of representation. An arbitrary rule was adopted under which, the large counties and the City of Baltimore have five, and the smallest counties have three delegates. The Senate was changed, so as to dispense with the agency of electors, each county and the City of Baltimore having power to choose one member. And now, the Senate is so constituted that the members in that body, representing less than one third of our population, can prevent the passage, or repeal of laws, against the sense of the other members of that body, representing the other two thirds of the population, and the entire House of Delegates united.

At the time of the election of my predecessor, the Agents and directors of State in several joint stock companies were by law to be appointed by the Governor, subject to the confirmation or rejection of the Senate. This mode of appointment had prevailed during the existence of the old constitution, while the minority had uninterrupted sway. This power is now not only taken from the executive, but from the House of Delegates. The present agents and directors of the were appointed by this law at December session 1840, to continue in office until their successors should be chosen by concurrent vote of the two houses. They have been continued in office since without re-appointment, as the House of Delegates and Senate have never concurred in the election of their successors, and it is not probable they will speedily do so.

The interest of the State in the companies incorporated to make roads and canals. The power of those companies is very great to effect the well being, the happiness and prosperity of the people. Through their influence over the Legislature, an