

Then if they had committed no wrong toward Baltimore, but had always dealt fairly with it, would the representatives of that city, ask them to allow them representation according to population, on the ground that this was the true theory of a republican government? Was not this a government based upon compromise? Although the Declaration of Rights declared, that all men were born free and equal, would a man in England have a right to come to the State and vote? Not at all; and thus it would be perceived, that there were those who were not equal, so far as political privileges were concerned?

Did they not know that a portion of the community were proscribed, and that minors were not free and equal? Look wherever they might, and they would find that government was at best but a compromise, established for the protection and security of the whole people.

Now, half of the delegates of Baltimore city had come forward, and met them in the spirit of compromise; and he trusted that the remaining half would yet join them on this common ground. One portion of the Convention, in this spirit of concession, had gone to the last extremity, and what was left to be done? Nothing but to surrender, one by one, of the proposed number, until she should have a delegation equal to that of the largest county only.

One reason why he had voted for giving Baltimore city an increased representation was, because the action of the Convention would not be final. The Convention did not make a Constitution. It might take a preliminary step, and by a majority adopt a Constitution; but that Constitution was yet to be submitted to the sovereign people of Maryland for ratification, and without their adoption and confirmation, our labors would be in vain and useless.

If after having sat here for five or six long months, deliberating upon the formation of a new Constitution, we should fail to affect a compromise of this question, all our deliberations, in his opinion, would be vain. And why did he say this? Because the representatives from Baltimore city would not be willing to go to their constituents, and tell them to vote for a Constitution, which gave them but five delegates. It was known to all that there were a portion of the inhabitants of Maryland, who were opposed to any reform in the Constitution, and that certain portions would vote against any Constitution. Let this portion combine, and bring to its aid the whole of Baltimore city and the western counties, and then what would become of the action of the Convention? We should look to the people to ascertain whether they will ratify what we do or not. If we were not going to give the people a Constitution which we thought would be ratified, let us adjourn at once, and save the people any further expense and anxiety. But the gentleman from Baltimore city, [Mr. Brent,] had said that he might ultimately vote for the Constitution, if it should put a restriction upon the Legislature, preventing them from taxing western Maryland for local purposes.

Mr. BRENT [interposing] explained, that his position was this: That if they would provide in the Constitution for restricting the power of the Legislature to tax the counties of the whole State, for the benefit of sectional improvements, he would go for it. If the article on this subject already adopted, was not strong enough, he was prepared to go further.

Mr. STEWART thought that this was as much as to say that Baltimore city had been taxed for the benefit of other portions of the State, to her injury, by the counties. The restriction alluded to by the gentleman, might well come from the counties, particularly the smaller ones, but coming from Baltimore city, it could have no force.

The counties had never injured Baltimore city; but look at the counties of the Eastern Shore, intersected by creeks and rivers, meandering through them; and yet, for the purpose of conferring upon Baltimore, and the western counties, the benefits that they enjoyed, given them by nature, they manfully agreed to run railroads and canals, where the God of nature had not made rivers—they had thus subjected themselves to the weighty, burdens of taxation, for the construction of works, whose benefit did not accrue to the Eastern Shore, but to the city of Baltimore. Notwithstanding all this, they were asked to yield up their constitutional control of Baltimore city. Could a child fear the protection of its parent? Could the offspring fear the nurture, and love, and care of its mother? As well might the city of Baltimore fear the protection of the counties, as the infant fear the protection of its parent.

Much money had been appropriated for internal improvements, but there had never been an outlay made from the public treasury that ever benefited the county from which he came. Not even a judge resided in his county, there to spend his salary—not a single officer, paid from the public treasury ever resided there to spend one dollar for the benefit of the county. No—out of all the taxes that were levied, for the State, upon the industrious and honest people of Caroline—out of all the money that was taken from it, to the public treasury, nothing came back, except the little the judges left with the hotel-keeper to pay for board, whilst attending court. Notwithstanding this—notwithstanding they were oppressed with taxes for Western Maryland and Baltimore city, they had come forward with the spirit of compromise and liberality, which he was shocked, and pained, and grieved, to say had not been responded to by some of the delegates from the city. He hoped that in a spirit of magnanimity and conciliation, they would all unite and bring to an end the proceedings of the Convention. There was beauty in cheerfully receiving as well as in cheerfully giving. They were cheerful givers, but he could not say that they were cheerful receivers. A portion of the delegation from Baltimore, had declared that they would not receive this proposition except in the last resort. This last resort might never come. The offer to accept hereafter may come too late. He did not speak as a prophet, but spoke with