

My desire is (concluded Mr. T.) to vote on something tangible. I hold in my hand a proposition which embodies the true republican doctrine; and which I now offer.

Mr. T. read as follows:

"With instructions to report a plan of representation in the House of Delegates on such basis of compromise as will in their judgment protect the interests of the different sections of the State."

Mr. T. then referred to the resolutions, and said that the Convention proposed to send these resolutions back without either an affirmative or a negative answer. His opinion was that in order to protect all the interests of any State, or Government, compromises on the part of the various interests involved must be made. And this he supposed to be the conclusion to which the Convention must come at last.

Mr. SPENCER said, he would accept the amendment of the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. TUCK,) if he (Mr. S.) was at liberty to do so.

Mr. BROWN thought, he said, that the proposition of the gentleman from Prince George's did not remove the difficulty. It was probable there would be as many differences of opinion under that amendment, as there had already been in committee.

After saying a few words in reply to Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, and applying to that gentleman's course on this question one of David Crockett's anecdotes about a coon-fight, Mr. B. expressed the belief that the resolution ought to be recommitted; and he was sure that if the committee could not agree on a plan without the instructions of the gentleman from Prince George's, they could not agree with them.

Mr. TUCK. I withdraw my amendment.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, replied briefly and in good humor to the coon story, and, after referring to the proceedings which had taken place in the committee upon them, said that every member of the committee agreed that it was necessary that the Convention should pass upon the question involved in the resolution. He believed that, if the House would decide that question, a report could be made in twenty-four hours afterwards, if the committee could be got together.

Mr. MERRICK could not discover, he said, any reasonable ground for the apprehension which some gentlemen had expressed that bitter and accrimonious feelings would grow out of the discussion on this question. The gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. THOMAS,) had said that the question of the distribution of political power was connected with this subject, and that other questions should be disposed of first, because of the danger (as he, Mr. M., understood the gentleman,) that astrangement and alienation would grow out of the discussion. He, (Mr. M.,) hoped that there was no member of this Convention who did not feel the utmost good will towards every other member of it; and that it would be found that they could, as statesmen and philosophers (many of them with locks whitened with age,) act upon this question without being transported with that

passion or ill-will to which younger men might be apt to yield. So far from thinking that this question should be postponed, because of its importance, and because it occupied a larger share of public consideration, and of the consideration of the Convention than any other, he thought it should for that very reason be the sooner disposed of.

He contested the idea that the resolutions reported from the Committee, were mere abstractions. What was the first question to be decided when the Convention came to consider the subject of representation? Was it not whether there should be representation strictly according to population, or whether there should be a modification of that principle? That was the first operation of the mind in approaching the question—one which no mind could resist. And it was emphatically and pre-eminently a practical question. Had not the Convention to determine whether it would concede the principle of representation according to population, or whether it would settle down upon something else—some modification of that principle? When that principle had once been settled, there would be no trouble. The rest was a matter of calculation and figures. Once settle the principle, and the Convention would have a practical decision which would lead to a certain result. Suppose the Convention decided this resolution negatively. Would they not even then have advanced very considerably towards an adjustment of the question? And was it not much more likely that it would be adjusted at an early day upon some proper, rational and salutary principle of compromise? He earnestly hoped that the Convention would not blink this question, but would come boldly up to it by a direct and solemn vote.

Some conversation followed on a point of order, between Mr. GWINN and the PRESIDENT, after which—

Mr. GWINN withdrew his amendment.

Mr. G. asked the House to say, whether, if they should proceed to take a vote on the resolution now pending, they would have settled any principle. He had, in committee, voted that it was inexpedient to regard federal numbers in fixing the basis of representation. With his experience of the state of things in this Convention, he considered that in giving that vote he was in fact voting for a compromise.

But so far as he was concerned, if this resolution should be set aside by the Convention, he should vote for any proposition to place it upon the basis of federal numbers. There was no necessity, as the gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. THOMAS,) had said, for taking the question as it now stood, because the Convention would settle nothing by the motion. He, (Mr. G.,) was willing that the matter should be recommitted, and that the committee should be discharged, because he was confident that it would never come to any conclusion.

Mr. BLAKISTONE said, he had voted yesterday in favor of the motion to postpone the consideration of this subject, and was anxious that it