

should be postponed; but the Convention had decided otherwise. He was, therefore, desirous that the sense of the body should be taken upon the resolutions reported by the committee.

Several gentlemen had declared that they were in favor of representation according to population. He desired that the people of the State should understand how they were voting here. The gentleman from Carroll had said the other day, that he was anxious that gentlemen should show their hands. The time, he, (Mr. BLAKISTONE,) thought had come. He was for no dodging. He would tell gentlemen that they should not dodge. The proposition might be voted down, but it should come up in its plain and naked shape, and a vote should be taken upon it. He took it for granted that no gentleman here, was afraid, or ashamed to give his opinion upon the proposition itself. He, for one, was ready to express his. He wanted to record his name, and he desired to see other gentlemen record theirs.

It had been intimated by the gentleman from Carroll, that there were some members of this body who were not ready to "toe the mark." Let it be seen who they were. Let every gentleman march up to the vote with a fixed and steady purpose, to let the people of the State of Maryland know who they were, from whence they came, who would go for this abstract proposition of representation according to population. He did not anticipate that any such scenes of excitement as some gentlemen predicted would take place here, or that any member of the body, in the expression and enforcement of the opinions he entertained, would go beyond the limits of propriety. He alluded to this doctrine of representation according to population, as a political hobby which had been ridden to death, and whose death-warrant he desired to see. Gentlemen might ride it at home if they pleased, but it should not be mounted here, or if it was, he, for one, was resolved to see how the gentleman rode, and upon what sort of pony he was mounted.

The people did not know all the reform opinions advocated in this body. He alluded to the various grades of reformers, and the kind of reform which they sustained; but declared that he had never, in his experience, heard a man in the State of Maryland, high or low, broadly advocate before the people, the principle of representation according to population. It had not even been argued here when the reform bill was up, and if it had been, the very statement of the argument would have strangled the offspring in its birth. Let the question be met. He would meet it boldly—even if alone; and if he fell, the greater glory would be his, that he had fallen, not by the hands of pigmies, but of giants.

He amused the Convention for some time by allusions to the strange combinations of the political elements which were manifested in the Convention; and described the animals, (hobbies) upon which some gentlemen were riding and the particular order in which they mounted. He then proceeded to remark, that if gentlemen had come here with a serious intention of making a Constitution, it was time they should go to work

in good earnest to do so. Looking to the way in which the Convention was now going on, the people would never get a Constitution on the face of the earth. He spoke of his own constituents as among the purest in the world; and thought, that one of the strongest evidences of the fact was to be found in the steadfastness with which they had always voted for him. (Laughter.)

He desired to say one word to the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. GWINN.) That gentleman had stated that the Committee could not make a report without instructions, and yet he turned around and declared his willingness to vote to recommit without instructions, when it was conceded by him that no report could be obtained. Did gentlemen expect to have a Constitution, when the sure result of attempting to carry out their own extreme views, would be to defeat the formation of any Constitution? He (Mr. B.) did not expect to gain any great degree of credit among the ultra reform members of this Convention, by any vote which he should give. He came here with a fixed determination to make the best Constitution he could, for the whole people of the State. And if he ever spoke an honest word, such was his fixed purpose now. If he could make such a Constitution before the sun went down this evening, he would do so. The time for work had come, and he called upon every member of the Convention to step boldly forward and avow his opinion.

Much had been said in the course of the recent discussions, about corruption in Maryland. Where was its paternity? This reform movement in Maryland was its father—corruption was its design. Before a sacrilegious hand had been laid upon the Constitution which our forefathers made, there was no corruption to be found in any part of the State of Maryland. And where did it now come from? From the office-seekers and their satellites. This was the origin of all the corruption.

Notwithstanding all that had been said of the fraud and corruption existing in the State of Maryland—of which there might be a good deal—he believed there was not a more honorable or chivalrous people on the face of the earth, or a people generally more free from corruptions. He passed a high eulogy upon them.

In conclusion, he appealed to the members of the Convention, whigs and democrats—for he recognized here no party but Marylanders—to come up and vote upon this question. Let there be no higgling—chaffing—or dodging—but let every man vote boldly, aye or no. The people would then have some guarantee, that the Convention intended rapidly and successfully to do the work for which it had assembled.

Mr. DAVIS corrected his friend from St Mary's, (Mr. Blackistone,) who had stated that no person could be found in or out of the Legislature, who had come out, and taken the broad ground in favor of population as a basis of representation. He pointed out his friend from Carroll, (Mr. BROWN,) as having done so, and asked his friend from Frederick, (Mr. BISEN,) if he also had not advocated the principle before the Legislature.

Mr. BLAKISTONE replied that he stood correct-