

been done, came in and by the side of it, piled up amendment upon amendment, until his Ossa stood "like a wart," wholly overwhelmed. And while this was going on, before any final action could be taken, *presto*, [as the gentleman from Caroline, Mr. Stewart, would say,] in came a new subject, and the Convention was turned entirely into a new track. This he [Mr. B.] was desirous to avoid.

Mr. B. proceeded to refer to the remarks made on a previous day by his friend from St. Mary's, [Mr. Blakistone,] when, in alternate tones of the softest persuasion and the loftiest command—that gentleman had summoned the members of the Convention to the discharge of their duty. Mr. B. reminded him that the motion to postpone the representation question to the 15th of February, did not come from his, [Mr. Buchanan's,] side of the House, and admonished him that he should be careful how he assailed others, lest, as in this instance, the arrow should fall upon his own house, and hit his own brethren.

He, [Mr. Buchanan] desired delay, because he thought it would ultimately result in expedition. He called attention to articles in the morning papers, asking whether the Convention had yet done any work. He was desirous to hold up to them the handiwork of the admirable artificer from Kent, [Mr. Chambers.] For his own part, he, [Mr. B.] had been almost stationery here. He intended to remain so until the work was performed—or nearly so, and he protested against any individual undertaking to denounce him as derelict to his duty, or as one who had done nothing. He would only say, in conclusion, that he would vote against the amendment of the gentleman from Kent, [and no one could ever have supposed that he, (Mr. B.) would vote otherwise.] and in favor of the amendment of the gentleman from Queen Anne, [Mr. Spencer.]

Mr. SPENCER obtained the floor.

Mr. BELL interposed with the remark, that his object in making the motion to lay the subject on the table, had been to avoid the very discussion into which the Convention was now going.

Mr. SPENCER. The floor was assigned to me. I am not disposed to throw any impediment in the way of the gentleman. But I stated on Saturday last, that I desired to hear from the gentleman from Kent, [Mr. Chambers,] the reasons for the proposition he had submitted, in order that I might have an opportunity to reply. I rise now for the purpose of redeeming the pledge which I then gave.

The PRESIDENT interposed and stated that when the order was announced, the fact had for the moment escaped his attention, that, at the time of adjournment on Saturday, the gentleman from Kent, [Mr. Chambers,] had the floor, was addressing the Convention, and yielded for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. BUCHANAN. I beg the gentleman, [Mr. Chambers,] ten thousand pardons, but my word is pledged to renew the motion of the gentleman from Alleghany, [Mr. Fitzpatrick,] for upon that pledge alone it was that I obtained the floor.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I will relieve the gentle-

man from his embarrassment. Certainly, I never would have made the motion to lay on the table, had I known that the gentleman from Kent, [Mr. Chambers] was entitled to the floor.

Mr. CHAMBERS thereupon took the floor and said :

When the House adjourned he had not intended to occupy ten minutes more of its time. He was quite inclined to gratify the suggestion made by the gentleman from Frederick, to have this debate continued in committee of the whole, and have every gentleman to submit his plan and enable us to select some one, or compound one out of the mess. He would, however, avail himself of the opportunity to add a word in vindication of his amendment.

The idea of giving to Baltimore a representation equal to the largest county, did not originate with him. The reform committee and the reform legislature of 1836, adopted it, recommended it to the good people of the State, who confirmed it by their representation in 1837. It was the basis of compromise; Baltimore agreed to it, and was willing to increase her delegation with the increase of the largest county. It was a reasonable compromise. It was known that from the early days of the colonial government the counties had been *equally* represented. The State had prospered and all its political interests had been faithfully and usefully attended to; practically, every thing worked well in the machinery of the government. But the large counties and Baltimore desired to have more political power, or at least, more political offices, and the compromise was made, by which the small counties were greatly reduced in their comparative numbers and power.

The census of 1840 was made the basis of the first adjustment of the number of representatives to the counties respectively, and it was to be thereafter altered and made to conform to the population ascertained by every *second* census thereafter, but the same principle was solemnly agreed on, as the mode of adjustment. Baltimore was still to be equal to the largest county in the number of her representatives. The first census, therefore, which was to occasion a readjustment was that of 1860, but now in 1849, before the revolution of one-half of the period which is to bring 1860 into being, this compromise is disregarded, and the diminished small counties must again submit to be shorn of a portion of their reduced power, and Baltimore is no longer to be kept equal to the largest county, but, as some of her divided delegation on this floor claim, is to have a number of delegates in exact proportion to her numbers—that is to say, Baltimore is to have thirty-three members of the House of Delegates, while Kent county has two. To deny the policy and expediency of this, was charged upon him as a great heresy. He did not refer to the abusive newspapers, to which his friend from Baltimore county, (Mr. Buchanan,) had alluded. He regretted being obliged to say, that some of these could not be touched without defiling a gentleman's hands, nor their language repeated without polluting his lips.

His opinions had been assailed from higher