

sources. He had been supposed to impute an especial degree of corruption to the city of Baltimore. He never had said one word like it. He regarded Baltimore precisely as he did other cities. Certainly he agreed with Mr. Jefferson that the country air, country occupation and country associations, are at least equally congenial to the growth of pure morals and patriotism, but he was willing to concede to Baltimore, as much of both as to other cities.

Yet did we not all know the power of concentration? It is as operative in the political as in the physical world—it operates every where. What is the mighty torrent that sweeps before it every opposing barrier? It is but the aggregation of drops. There were some farmers who heard him; they know how effectually a few individuals acting in concert could operate. The few millers and grain buyers in the city could do more to effect the market than all the farmers in the country, simply because they could combine, while these acted separately, in atoms. Every body knew the superior power of a few disciplined soldiers over a dispersed mass of men with no organization or concert.

But besides this, Baltimore had an interest in every county in the State. It was the centre of business—the heart of our trade and commerce, and its pulsations were felt through every artery, tendon, muscle and nerve, of the whole body of the people. She had never earnestly desired any thing without getting it. Delegates from all parts of the State were to some extent, delegates for the city. To ask for a representation then rateably, one for every five, six or seven thousand, is idle. No one here can expect it. Even the gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Thomas,) proposes a limitation in the way of equal districts—a limitation as he, (Mr. T.,) regards it, not as regarded by him, (Mr. C.) Why then was he less orthodox than others, who were allowed to be good reformers, yet insisted on a limit?

To enable gentlemen to submit their several views, and thus place the House in a condition to act intelligently, and also to gratify a request made by a gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Johnson,) he would conclude by moving that the House now resolve itself into a committee of the whole.

Mr. SPENCER said the committee on representation had reported to the Convention on the 11th of December,

1st, "That it is inexpedient to regard federal numbers in fixing the estimates and basis of representation in the House of Delegates;" and,

2nd, "That it is inexpedient to adopt a principle of representation based exclusively upon popular numbers, in organizing the House of Delegates or the Senate."

He had great objection to receiving such a report. It was not consistent with the duty for which the committee was appointed. It was the purpose and design of this Convention, in appointing the committees, to expedite its business by reports in full from them, in the form of articles to be incorporated in the Constitution. And if

we depart from the purpose contemplated, we shall be greatly delayed in our proceedings. He had, therefore, moved that the report be re-committed to the Committee. That proposition had been rejected. He then moved to re-commit it "with instructions to report a basis of representation on some fair principle of compromise."

To this, the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. CHAMBERS,) offered the following as an amendment:

"In such manner, that the city of Baltimore shall be entitled to the same number of representatives in the House of Delegates as may be allowed to the largest county in the State."

That honorable member had given to the Convention the reasons which induced him to offer an amendment which entirely excludes the city of Baltimore from all participation in the compromise of this agitating and exciting question.

Mr. CHAMBERS explained his amendment.

Mr. SPENCER resumed. The gentleman was from one of the smaller counties, and his voice had announced that the largest portion of the State, in numbers and in wealth, in the adjustment of a question so vital as the one under consideration, was not to be heard. The counties from the mountains to the sea were to compromise this matter, and then arbitrarily say to Baltimore, "we will allow you what we choose and no more." He, Mr. SPENCER, was also from a small county, contiguous to the county of the gentleman, and in response, he desired to say, that he was for compromising with each and every portion of the State. Not with one part to the exclusion of the other; but with each and all. Situated as Baltimore was—a large and increasing city, in a very small State—self-defence made it necessary for the counties to resist representation based on population exclusively. But as this is denied to Baltimore, who claims it, the question must be compromised with her, and as far as can be done, an equivalent ought to be given to her.

He deprecated delay. He knew that efforts were being made to render this Convention odious, and he had no doubt if the resolutions, as reported by the committee, were passed without any qualification, they would tend to produce popular excitement. There are two great parties here; one representing the interest of Baltimore; the other, the smaller counties. Every candid mind must admit that neither extreme will prevail. His proposition would show that there existed in this body a spirit of compromise under which we could all fraternize, and the question be settled with harmony.

To his regret, the gentleman from Kent, had offered his amendment, which, while we are striving to cultivate a spirit of concession and concord, throws Baltimore off altogether. His objection to giving her a representation greater than the largest county, is on account of her concentrated position. We must all admit the commanding position which her concentrated power gives her, and he was unwilling to let the smaller counties be over-riden by that great city. But at the same time it is right to say, that whilst we withhold from her the application of