

amendment of Mr. FIERY, and the result was as follows:

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Buchanan, President, *pro tem*, Howard, Bell, Welch, Chandler, Lloyd, Dickinson, Sherwood of Talbot, Chambers of Cecil, McCullough, Miller, McLane, Spencer, Grason, George, Wright, Shriver, Gaither, Biser, Annan, McHenry, Magraw, Thawley, Stewart of Caroline, Hardecastle, Stewart of Baltimore city, Presstman, Ware, Fiery, Neill, Harbine, Brewer, Weber, Hollyday, Slicer, Fitzpatrick, Parke, Cockey and Brown—39.

*Negative*—Messrs. Morgan, Blakistone, Hope-well, Ricaud, Lee, Chambers of Kent, Mitchell, Donaldson, Dorsey, Wells, Randall, Kent, Sellman, Weems, Dalrymple, Bond, Brent of Charles, Merrick, Jenifer, Crisfield, Williams, Hicks, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Phelps, Bowie, Tuck, Sprigg, McCubbin, Bowling, Dirickson, McMaster, Fooks, Sappington, Gwinn, Brent of Baltimore city, Sherwood of Baltimore city, Schley, John Newcomer, Davis, Kilgour, Waters, Smith and Shower—44.

So the amendment was rejected.

Mr. NELSON, having paired off with Mr. DENNIS did not vote.

The question then recurred on the adoption of the original section.

Mr. DIRICKSON asked the yeas and nays,

Which were ordered.

Mr. JENIFER suggested the same alteration that he had in the former instance suggested, that Caroline and Calvert counties should each be allowed three delegates.

Mr. MERRICK declined to go into any exposition of the reasons and arguments upon which he had made his report. He knew the uselessness of any such effort. He knew that gentlemen came here pre-determined to act—fettered by the decisions of caucusses.

He was not willing to make a speech merely for the sake of making a speech—of having his name heralded in the public papers, and feeding a morbid appetite for name and fame, which he did not wish to acquire. Knowing as he did, that no good object could be effected, he should not now be guilty of the ridiculous folly of pretending to do that, which, at one time, he had fondly hoped he should have an opportunity of doing—that was, of illustrating the project which he had drawn up with great care and after anxious deliberation.

But it was already condemned. To speak now would be but uselessly to consume time, and to bore and worry gentlemen about that which was uninteresting to them, and which could lead to no practical result. Let the question be determined as it was decreed that it should be determined.

He hoped in God that the Convention might agree upon a plan as good as that which he had presented, though he greatly feared that no plan half so good would be adopted.

Mr. PRESTMAN obtained the floor, but yielded for the moment to

Mr. JENIFER, who moved further to amend said

section by adding at the end thereof, the following proviso:

“Provided no county shall have less than three delegates.”

The yeas and nays on the said amendment were asked and ordered.

Mr. PRESTMAN made some remarks, which will be hereafter published.

Mr. MERRICK acknowledged his indebtedness to his friend from Baltimore city for the courteous invitation contained in his remarks. He should be very glad, were it in his power, to gratify the wish expressed by that gentleman, and to discuss this question now at length. But the Convention knew what that gentleman did not know, what transpired in this Hall upon yesterday, and after that had taken place, no earthly consideration could induce him to discuss the subject this morning. The people of Charles county had conferred upon him the high honor of calling him from that retirement in which he had long been buried, and in which he had wished to close his days, and had selected him to serve them in this Convention. From that hour to the present he had been most anxious to see this exciting and agitating question settled in such a manner as to do equal justice to all parts of the State, to give equal security and protection to all interests in the State. He had been anxious that this agitation which had been a hobby for demagogues to ride, and a theme for statesmen to discuss, which had been destructive to the habits of the people, leading to disastrous consequences and results, should now be brought to a termination. He had told his constituents, when called upon to serve them here, that he was reluctant to come, but that if required to come, he should treat this matter as one to be compromised. He had felt deeply and strongly the conviction that the existing abuses could not and ought not to be adhered to. That doctrine he had taken at home and had maintained here, and he intended to maintain it. The basis of representation as fixed in the Constitution, should, would and could not be longer adhered to. But while he was willing to depart from that basis, he was not willing to sacrifice the great and vital interests of the smaller slaveholding counties of the State. He had come here in the capacity of a representative of the sovereign people of Maryland, to make a new compact of government, the old one not giving satisfaction and not being right in itself. But he did not come to recognise the wild and extravagant doctrine of representation purely according to population. The doctrine which had spread far and wide over the land, not only over Maryland, but the whole Union, which was sooner or later, he feared, to lead to the most fatal consequences to republican liberty and to this great and glorious republic on this side of the Atlantic—the doctrine of the absolute right of the majority to rule—was a doctrine inevitably resolving itself into nothing more nor less than the right of the strongest, and the principle that “might makes right.” He came to the Convention then an individual man, representing a portion of the people of the State, resolved, so far as the action of