

gress, and will be immediately so represented. Upon what rule of logic or reason is it that you say that the negroes shall not be counted in the basis by which the people of Maryland are represented in their own legislature? All free people in free governments are always counted in the basis of representation.

Why do you exclude the free negro? He is not excluded now. The free negro now, in the magnanimity of the slaveholders of the State, a policy which they have always pursued to their own cost, and in many cases to their own ruin, from the time he is emancipated, is represented in the general assembly as fully as you or I. Free negroes like free white people form a portion of the acknowledged basis on which representation is apportioned. Why should they form a part of it and not the negroes that you are going to set free? Where is the rule or reason? How do you draw the distinction? I think that the fact that the free negroes are now a part of the basis and that the very minute you set the slaves free they will by public law become a portion of the federal basis, is conclusive against any attempt here to exclude them in reference to the representation of the counties; and shows that the attempt is based upon no other theory and no other principle whatever except the desire to crush out the proper political power to which certain counties are entitled in the general assembly of the State.

Mr. RIDGELY. I will suggest to the gentleman that the emancipated negroes will form no part of the federal basis until the next census is taken. The present representation will continue until that time.

Mr. BELT. Until it is rearranged, necessarily.

Now I come to a narrower circle, to the question of Baltimore city. I dismiss from my mind the idea of the possibility that giving to a large city enables them to exercise an influence against the counties, and must continually be guarded against. I know of no intelligent people who entertain any such school-boy jealousy as that with regard to Baltimore city. Baltimore city is as much ours, as any other part of the State. We rejoice in her prosperity. We will do anything in a legislative way, or in any other way to advance her interests against her competitors. We are bound to do it. A feeling of pride and interest and pleasure in her welfare, will induce us to build her up.

But when you come to arrange these questions as between Baltimore city and the counties, and the proposition is made here to give Baltimore city twenty-one members, I place it in this light. Suppose you grant to that city this immense representation, twice as great as anybody has had the hardihood to claim for her heretofore, the danger is this: Suppose that with that weight in the lower house and with the three senators that you propose to give her, she chooses to make a bargain with

the eastern shore, where is western Maryland, and where is southern Maryland then? Suppose she makes a bargain with western Maryland; where is southern Maryland, and where is the eastern shore?

On the other hand, while every section of the State is put in imminent peril by granting this power to Baltimore, lest she should combine with some other section against the rest of the State, Baltimore city is not in the same danger. There cannot be successfully the same combination against her; because she exercises under this Constitution, and under any Constitution you are likely to frame, a certain degree of power in this State in other directions and in other respects, enabling her to hold her own under all circumstances. Baltimore city elects the governor. Baltimore city elects at least one judge of the court of appeals. Her political power is immense. Her control in the community is immense. She is the common agent of the people. She is at the head of the financial operations of the State. She exercises from day to day and from hour to hour, over the remotest sections and corners of Maryland, an influence that we all feel and know, the supremacy of which we are obliged constantly to acknowledge. With her voting population she controls the whole politics of the State. Therefore she is able, as a general rule, to protect herself against combinations likely to do her any injury, although a section comprising five or six small counties of the State is not able to protect itself.

Another controlling consideration in my mind—for I shall not undertake to argue the question elaborately, and should have preferred that the discussion had been brought on and conducted in that quiet, easy and dignified manner in which I hoped questions of this sort would be considered—is the consideration which was referred to at length by my colleague (Mr. Berry,) the author of the minority report. We are situated in the position of being a small State with a large city.

There is no sort of analogy between the relations of New York city to the State, or of Philadelphia to the State of Pennsylvania. No such relation subsists here. In the State of New York, there are Albany, Troy, Buffalo, and a dozen or two cities, and as many towns which we in Maryland would look upon as cities. And in addition to these heavily populated cities and towns, there are counties, and districts, sections of the State which are almost as densely populated as any of our towns. They can afford in New York, if it be a fact, to have a representation according to population without injury to anybody. The State overbalances the city.

In Maryland we have a small State; and by no means a wealthy State. The population in the rural districts is sparse. And we have a city embracing within itself more than one-third of the total population, and nearly