

proper sense of justice? If Baltimore is so powerful as to control all who come within her reach, and so tyrannical as to oppress all, why is it that the honorable gentleman is so ready to throw us into the vortex, and to keep clear his own people and himself? It is natural that he should seek to protect himself, but why is it that he should struggle to surrender us? If, indeed, he entertains the opinions he has expressed of the character of Baltimore, his effort is wholly irreconcilable with a proper estimate of what is due to us.

I have said that all the reasons which the gentleman has assigned for attaching Baltimore county to the city, apply with equal force to Howard district. The gentleman has only to turn to his left, and he will see by his side, from among the lawyers who live in Howard district and who practice in the city of Baltimore, his colleague, (Mr. Donaldson,) a gentleman who, for his age, occupies as respectable a position as any member of the Bar of Baltimore.

Mr. President, [said Mr. B.] to me individually it is a matter of but little importance how these districts are arranged, or how other districts may be arranged with a view to political ascendancy.

For myself I have nothing to ask—nothing to seek for—nothing to desire. My ardent wish is, and has been for a long time, to retire from political excitements.

I can truly say, before God and my country, what was so beautifully indicated by the gentleman from Frederick (Mr. Thompson) yesterday, that as the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so panteth my soul for the peace and quiet of retired life.

Mr. JENIFER withdrew the amendment offered by him and accepted the amendment offered by Mr. Thomas.

Mr. BOWIE then moved to amend the amendment by inserting after "Carroll," the word "Harford," and by striking out in the 4th line the word "Harford."

Mr. THOMAS accepted this amendment.

The question then recurred upon the adoption of the amendment as amended.

Mr. CHAMBERS said, the gentleman from Frederick was willing to do this, if the Eastern Shore preferred it. Time was when on some questions he would have felt willing to answer for the Eastern Shore, but that day was past and gone. Its voice was not only feeble, but divided. It was truly a house divided against itself. Its political influence and importance, henceforth and for ever, was at an end. By whose agency this was accomplished, let your records show. As for myself, [said Mr. C.] I wash my hands here, in your presence, where the deed has been done; I wash my hands from every stain of guilt. Not one drop of the blood of my countrymen rests on these skirts of mine. I have lifted no suicidal hand here. No, Sir, not one atom of political power has been lost to my Shore by any vote of mine. I have struggled and argued and entreated, but in vain, to maintain it in all its integrity, and to lessen the extent of encroachments upon it. Other gentlemen, delegates from the Eastern Shore, have pursued a different course. They have doubtless acted with as pure a purpose as I

have. They have been assisted, too, by some whose sympathies we once expected to receive (looking to Mr. Jenifer's seat.) The deed is done. We are prostrate—stript bare; stript to a degree that, perhaps, would make it more prudent to ask in mercy, in pity, for forbearance from further aggressions. But while I have a voice to raise, that voice shall be heard in vindication of the political power and influence of my Shore, in the effort to maintain them unimpaired and unabridged. That is my response to the quasi question of the gentleman.

Mr. THOMAS. I made no question.

Mr. JOHN DENNIS rose, and said he concurred in most of the sentiments just advanced by the gentleman from Kent (Mr. Chambers). Let us, [said he,] refresh our memories by looking a little into the history of this matter. And here he would not imitate the example of the gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Johnson,) who carried us back a few days ago to the Proprietary Government existing in Maryland antecedent to the Revolution, and to which he seemed so anxious to return as the beau-ideal of a Republic, but would content himself with a reference to what took place at the organization of the present government.

The people of the Eastern Shore agreed to the formation of this government upon certain terms and conditions, without which they never would have entered into the compact. One of these conditions, and the one upon which they chiefly relied for their protection, is to be found in the fifty-ninth article of the fundamental law of the land. What is that article? I have not the book before me, but will quote from memory. Mr. D. here quoted the fifty-ninth article of the Constitution in the following words: "This form of government and the Declaration of Rights, and no part thereof, shall be altered, changed, or abolished, unless a bill so to alter, change, or abolish the same, shall pass the General Assembly, and be published at least three months before a new election, and shall be confirmed by the General Assembly, after a new election of Delegates, in the first session after such new election; provided, that nothing in this form of Government, which relates to the Eastern Shore particularly, shall, at any time hereafter, be altered, unless for the alteration and confirmation thereof at least two-thirds of all the members of each branch of the General Assembly shall concur." It will thus be seen that they would not agree to commit themselves and their posterity to the guardianship and control of a mere majority. No, Sir, but as wise and prudent statesmen, looking through the vista of the future, and foreseeing that the period, when the state of things that now exists, would arrive, they prepared for it, and demanded protection from the encroachments which experience, the mother of wisdom, taught them to know they might expect from that majority. Surrounding circumstances and transpiring events proclaim their sagacity. They were in a minority then, and knew, from the very nature of things, that they must continue so forever.

Deriving lessons of instruction from the fate of nations, of all complexions, Democratic,