

have under this bill, she was then to be entitled to two Delegates and a Senator. He asked gentlemen on all sides of the House not to pass this bill, but to reject it.

Mr. THOMAS regretted very much the course this discussion had taken, and also regretted what had fallen from the gentleman from Prince George's. He asked the Convention to reflect upon this aspect of the case—how far it would be prudent to deny to a portion of the State a reasonable and just right on the grounds that gentleman had urged.

The gentleman from Charles (Mr. Jenifer) had moved that the bill should be so amended that all this section of Maryland—some seven hundred and one thousand square miles—should not, until after the next census, have a representation for two counties greater than if they were one county. Of course, there was no great cause to fear an avalanche from the mountains in this respect.

How stood the constitution as adopted? That after 1860, after the next census returns, there should be a new apportionment among the whole of the counties of Maryland, in representation in the House of Delegates, upon the same principle of apportionment established in the constitution we are now about to adopt. If the county should be divided or not divided, would there not be located in that section precisely the same vote that would be in one event in another? If the population of the whole county remains entire, they will have a certain representation upon that floor. If they are divided, they could get no more. He considered this a simple question to give them a convenient seat of justice. If the proposition was modified so as to give that section the right to a court of justice, so far as he was concerned, he would be satisfied. He did not feel imperatively called upon to engage in the discussion on this occasion, or that branch of the subject alluded to by the gentleman from Prince George's, and he hoped the day was far distant when he would be called upon to do so.

Mr. TUCK availed himself of this opportunity to submit a few remarks in explanation of his course on this subject. He attempted to gain the floor yesterday, but was prevented by the previous question. Gentlemen had then expressed regret at the course of discussion on the representation question, and seemed to think that there had been no reason for the introduction of sectional topics. He [Mr. T.] was among the last to suggest any thing calculated "to alienate any portion of the State from the rest, or to disturb the unity of government which ought to constitute us one people." He was not the first to introduce into this body allusions to the several sections of the State, and to distinguish between federal numbers and gross numbers as the basis of representation. But, as he first introduced those topics into this debate, he desired to remind the Convention of the circumstances under which it was done. When the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Fiery) offered his proposition, some days ago, he distinctly said it was tendered as a compromise based on federal numbers. For the first time (as far as

Mr. T. remembered) the word "compromise," as applied to the slave question, was then used in this body. Another gentleman from Washington (Mr. Schley) offered his substitute, and when asked by Mr. Tuck on what basis his motion was made, he distinctly said on federal numbers, as a compromise. A compromise of what? Upon the slave question. Up to this time Mr. T. had not felt a moment's apprehension that there was any portion of the people of Maryland who would not, under all circumstances, render to the slave counties the fullest protection of their rights. He had seen the unanimity with which the resolutions of 10th December were passed. We had adopted a clause in the Constitution expressly protecting this institution, and he hoped that when the representation question came up we should have had similar feelings exhibited towards the slave counties. To say that he was disappointed, but half expressed his feelings. Compromise implies discrepancy—wide discrepancy, of views and opinions. The opinions and feelings of the people in his section of the State were well known; and when a measure was tendered by the other section as a compromise, it signified that very opposite views were entertained in that quarter. It was under the apprehension which this state of things was calculated to excite, that he rose at the time and urged the members from his section to set their faces against any thing that savored of compromise of a question, to yield any portion of which was to abandon the whole principle involved.

Gentlemen say that we have no cause of alarm. Perhaps they judge the people by themselves. All is sound here, and hence gentlemen say all is sound beyond these walls. But we cannot mistake the meaning of words. The course of members too plainly indicates the feelings that prevail among their people, if they are correctly represented. Besides these offers from the county of Washington, which, by the way, are compromises made for the slave counties by the upper counties, and to which our section was no party in any sense, (having been expressly excluded from the arrangements that preceded the plan,) we have had similar views stated by a gentleman from Allegany. He told us that his own preference was for the white basis—that his people were for that basis—that for the sake of doing justice to Prince George's county, which was heavily taxed for their benefit, he was willing to take whole numbers; but as there was a feeling among his people on the subject of slavery, to which their Delegates must respond, he thought federal numbers would be a fair compromise; and, therefore, he should support that basis.

Here we had the idea of compromise suggested by Washington and Allegany counties; upon a subject to which no Marylander would be willing to compromise with a Northern State in any case where the two States came in conflict. Maryland had evidently taken her stand with the South. The temperate, yet decided tone of our resolutions had commended them to the friends of the Union every where. How then was it possible for a member from a slave county to be otherwise than alarmed when pro-