

apportioned according to the surveyed lands, and improvements thereon, in the several states.⁴ But that it hath never been in the power of Congress to follow that rule; the returns from the several states being so very imperfect.

Dr. TAYLOR thought that the number of members to be chosen for the house of representatives, was too small. The whole union was intitled to send but 65; whereas by the old confederation, they send 91;⁵ a reduction of 30 per cent. He had heard it objected, that if a larger number was sent the house would be unwieldy. He thought our house of representatives, which sometimes consists of 150, was not unwieldy; and if the number of the federal representatives was enlarged to twice 65, he thought it would not be too large. He then proceeded to answer another objection, "that an increase of numbers would be an increase of expense," and by calculation demonstrated that the salaries of the full number he wished, would in a year amount only to £. 2980, about one penny on a poll; and by this increase, he thought every part of the commonwealth would be represented. The distresses of the people would thereby be more fully known and relieved.

Mr. WIDGERY asked, if a boy of six years of age, was to be considered as a free person?

Mr. KING, in answer, said, all persons born free, were to be considered as freemen; and to make the idea of *taxation by numbers* more intelligible, said, that five Negro children of South-Carolina, are to pay as much tax as the three governours of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

Mr. GORHAM, thought the proposed sect. much in favour of Massachusetts; and if it operated against any state, it was Pennsylvania, because they have more white persons *bound* than any other. Mr. G. corrected an observation of Dr. Taylor's, that the states now send 91 delegates to Congress—which was not the case. The states do not, he said, send near that number—and instanced Massachusetts, which sends but 4. He concluded by saying, that the constitution provides for an increase of members, as numbers increase—and that in fifty years there will be 360—in 100 years 14 or 1500—if the constitution last so long.

(Judge DANA, remarking on the assertions of Dr. Taylor, that the number of Representatives were too small; that the whole Union was now entitled to send but 65, whereas by the *Confederation* they might send 91, a reduction of 30 per cent, said, if the Constitution under consideration, was in fact what its opposers had often called it, a consolidation of the States, he should readily agree with that gentleman that the representation of the people was much too small; but this was

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History of Massachusetts Ratifying Convention, Volume 3, page 1237

Massachusetts Volume 3 is Volume 6 of the whole Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution.