

patient under suffering and privation, but why, without good reason, subject their patience to such a trial? Why should the sovereign people of Maryland be delayed *ten years* before you will allow them the privilege of freeing themselves from any practical inconveniences, they may suffer from the Constitution you are now framing? Why deny to them the privilege of relieving themselves promptly? Is our work to be so perfect, or to have any such high sanctions about it, that it is to be like the laws of the Medes and Persians, unalterable, inexorable, for at least ten years? And are the people unnecessarily to be required to bear with its defects and imperfections for at least that period, because they are known to be a patient and forbearing people? There is not, there cannot be any danger in leaving the power to the Legislature, to make necessary amendments, in the made proposed. If it were possible for the Legislature to be corrupt enough to abuse such a power, their responsibility to the people, direct and immediate, before the act can be completed, must always stare the members in the face too fully, for any such abuse to be attempted, before there can be any danger in lodging this power of amendment with the Legislature, the people must themselves have become corrupt and recreant to their own best interests; and when that shall be the case, if it ever is, which may God in his mercy forbid—there will be no longer any safety for freedom, nor in any form of free government.

But, if as contended by the honorable gentleman, the mere consciousness in the breasts of the people, that after the lapse of *ten years*, they can be relieved from present evils and inconveniences, will quiet these complaints and determine them to bear the evils of this Constitution patiently. Would not the consciousness that they could relieve themselves more promptly, and at any time, give them much more quiet and satisfaction? It is the consciousness that they may hereafter acquire the power to relieve themselves, that will enable them to endure patiently. I say give them the power now to relieve themselves, and there will be no need of this patient endurance, which at best is an evil in itself. But I am not so sure as the honorable gentleman seems to be, that the people will be entirely patient under this privation; especially if the practical workings of some parts of this Constitution, [as I very much fear some parts of it will,] should operate prejudicially to the interests and convenience of large numbers. When men feel an evil or an injustice, feel an infraction of their rights and privileges they are most generally little disposed to wait ten years for redress; and especially, is this the case with the American people, who are neither by habit nor disposition, accustomed to submit to unnecessary restraint? Persons as far advanced in life, as the gentleman or myself, can look back upon ten years, and count it as a short period, but even to us to look forward to ten years of inconvenience and privation, would be a pretty severe trial; how much more fearful must such a prospect be to the young and the ar-

dent, to all those just entering upon the busy scenes of life? I trust then, Mr President, the Convention will adopt the section as reported and recommended by my honorable friend from Calvert, [Mr. Sollers,] and leave the Legislature power to make all those small changes in the Constitution, which practical experience under it may, from time to time, show to be necessary, and whenever the altered condition of the State, or any other circumstances shall cause the people of the State, deliberately to desire the convocation of another Convention, for the purpose of remodeling their organic law, let it be the *duty* of the Legislature, who can never be ignorant of such a desire on the part of the body of the people, when it exists, to make due provision for the election and meeting of such a body. But let it not be inferred from the rejection of this proposition, and the adoption of the ten years patience plan, that this Convention has manifested a distrust, both of future Legislatures and of the people themselves. I assure you, sirs, I solemnly believe the course I now recommend to you, is the only wise, safe and prudent course to be pursued for the attainment of the ends I know you have in view, and desire no less anxiously than myself, namely, the quieting of all agitation upon this subject, and the advancement of the peace and happiness of our fellow-citizens generally.

FRIDAY, May 2nd, 1851.

The Convention met at 9 o'clock.

Prayer was made by the Rev. Mr. GRIF-

FITH.

The roll of the members was called,

And a quorum was ascertained to be present.

The journal of yesterday was read.

Mr. MITCHELL submitted the following order,

Which was read and adopted:

"Ordered by the Convention, that the committee on Accounts allow James Bransell, one dollar and fifty cents per day, commencing from first of the session, for lighting lamps and attending to cleaning the Hall of the State House."

CORPORATIONS.

Mr. WELLS chairman of the committee on corporations, rose and said, that he had been instructed by a majority of that committee to make a verbal report. The report was made verbally, because, under the order adopted by the Convention, at an early stage of the session, the committee were precluded from submitting their reasons in writing.

The committee have instructed me, (continued Mr. W.) to report, that after several meetings, and after having given to the various subject-matters which have been referred to them respectful and mature consideration, they are not now, and will not be, able to agree upon a