

## CONVENTION OF SLAVEHOLDERS.

On Wednesday last a convention of the slaveholders of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, assembled at Cambridge. Delegates were present from Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset and Worcester. The following were the officers of the convention:—

President—Wm. Goldsborough, Esq., of Talbot.

Vice Presidents—Curtis Jacobs, Esq., of Worcester, and Dr. Francis P. Phelps, of Dorchester.

Secretaries—Wm. D. Walker, Esq., of Somerset, and Dr. H. D. Grieves, of Dorchester.

After speeches from F. W. Thomas, Esq., Col. Samuel Hambleton, Hon. Jas. A. Stewart, Elias Griswold, Esq., the convention appointed Chas. F. Goldsborough and Elias Griswold, Dorchester; Col. Jacobs and Dr. T. J. T. Hammond, of Worcester; J. S. Sudler and M. S. Walker, of Somerset; Edward Hardecastle and Jas. E. Douglas, of Caroline; Col. Samuel Hambleton and Captain F. Buchanan, of Talbot county, to draft resolutions. On the following day they reported the following:—

Whereas it has become manifest to the people of Maryland that under the existing laws of the State in regard to the negro population it is impossible to control and regulate that portion of the community in a proper manner; and

Whereas it is necessary that something should be done in view of the existence among us of the present immense number of free negroes—their habits of idleness and dissipation—the heavy cost of prosecutions against them for violations of our criminal law—the evil example and influence which they exert towards our slave population, rendering them dissatisfied with their condition and comparatively worthless to their owners—their well-known tampering with slaves, and agency in inducing them to abscond from servitude—

And whereas Maryland is, and of right ought to continue, a slaveholding State, true to the interests of her Southern sisters and herself—

And whereas we, a portion of her citizens, wish to inaugurate a system of legislation, having for its object not only the protection of slaveholders, undisturbed in their right of property, but also the better regulation of all negroes, bond and free, within her limits, as well for the interests of the white citizen as for that of the negroes themselves—

Therefore be it *Resolved*, That free negroism and slavery are incompatible with each other, and should not be permitted longer to exist in their present relations, side by side, within the limits of the State.

*Resolved*, That prompt and effective legislation upon this subject is absolutely essential to the interests of the people.

*Resolved*, That although this convention has not sufficiently considered the premises to enable them to recommend any particular plan to the action of the next General Assembly, yet they are satisfied that public sentiment is prepared for and desires relief from the evils under which we are now laboring, which relief, in the opinion of this body, can only be obtained by a general expression of feeling from the people of the State in general convention assembled.

*Resolved*, That in view of the above, the members of this body, citizens of the Eastern Shore, a section which has suffered more than any other from the influences of abolitionism from abroad, and free-negroism in our midst, deem it right and proper to call upon the brethren throughout the State, not as slaveholders or as non-slaveholders, but as citizens of the Commonwealth, to meet them in general convention in the city of Baltimore, on the second Wednesday in June, 1839, for the purpose of devising some system, to be presented to the Legislature of Maryland at its next session, having for its object the better regulation of the negro population of this State; each county and the city of Baltimore have the same representation which they now have in the Legislature of the State.

*Resolved*, That a committee of seventeen persons be appointed by the Chair to draft an address to the people, setting forth the grievances under which we labor in reference to the matter above indicated, to be published in the newspapers in every county and the city of Baltimore, for a considerable length of time anterior to the period at which the State Convention is to be held.

The convention was still in session at the latest advices, but the resolutions were no doubt adopted.