

The journal of Saturday was read and approved.

MR. CHANDLER, OF BALTIMORE COUNTY.

On motion of Mr. BUCHANAN, it was ordered that it be entered on the journal, that H. J. Chandler, Esq., is detained from his seat in the Convention, because of sickness in his family.

The PRESIDENT, *pro tem.*, [Mr. TUCK, of Prince George's.] called for reports from committees.

No reports were made.

Motions, resolutions, and notices were also called for.

There being no other business before the Convention,

The PRESIDENT, *pro tem.*, announced the unfinished business of Saturday, being

#### THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

The Convention resumed the consideration of the order of the day, being the report submitted by Mr. DORSEY, on the 11th ult., as chairman of the committee on the declaration of rights.

The pending question was on the following amendment of Mr. DAVIS:

Insert as an additional article the following:

"The Legislature shall encourage by all suitable means, associations for the diffusion of knowledge and virtue, for the promotion of literature, the arts and sciences, agriculture, commerce and manufactures, and for the general melioration of the wants and conditions of the people."

Mr. DAVIS was entitled to the floor. He said:

*Mr. President:* I beg leave to return my acknowledgments to the Convention, for their kind consideration in not forcing me into this debate on Saturday, when I was physically unequal to the task. Although still unwell, I cannot presume longer on the indulgence of this body—but will endeavor to requite its kindness by being as brief as possible.

Never, Mr. President, have I risen under more embarrassment, than on the present occasion. An embarrassment produced, first by the variety and importance of the questions which I have had the honor to present—and secondly by my utter inability to do any thing like justice to them. I must then claim the patient indulgence of this body, while I present a few facts and considerations in favor of the adoption of the article I have offered.

We are assembled here, Mr. President, to form a new Constitution—the foundation of a Government. What is a Government? It is the head—the common protector and defender of the State. For its support, we surrender a portion of our personal interest, and of our individual rights.

If I am correct, in thus briefly defining the true meaning of Government, that it is the common head and protector of all classes and all interests in the State—and that it is supported by all classes and all interests, I cannot be wrong in claiming, that it shall be impartially administered, as far as possible, for the benefit of all classes and all interests.

Well, sir, what do we find by looking into the

past history of the State? Why nothing but partial legislation—profuse, wasteful, prodigal, legislation, for some interests, while others are almost, if not totally neglected—and in some instances an indisposition even to recognize that there is such an interest in the commonwealth. To prove that I am correct, I shall be obliged to refer to past legislation, and this will bring me in contact with the representative from the city of Baltimore, whose opposition I regret to find I have already encountered.

In referring to the past legislation of the State, and tracing, as the history of the times, leads me at almost every turn to the city of Baltimore, I beg distinctly to disclaim any feeling of hostility to that city. My associations and my connections are there—and what little of this world's goods I possess, is mainly dependent for its value upon her prosperity. And, sir, as a *Montgomerian*, I claim that Baltimore is largely indebted to her for her present rapidly growing prosperity. Proud as she is, and ought to be, of her monuments, whenever future generations shall decide upon her greatest and noblest monument, her *rail road*, its founder and projector will be found to be a *Montgomerian*, and posterity will acknowledge him to have been one of the greatest benefactors of your city. If I go into some of her churches, adorned with skill and ornament and convenience, and enquire into its history, I am told, this is the munificence of a *Montgomerian*. If I inspect some of your noblest warehouses, in Market, in Hanover and in German streets, I am told, they are the property of a *Montgomerian*. If I stroll to the *Park*, there to admire her stately mansions, I am told, these, that and yonder, are all owned and built by a *Montgomerian*. If I go further west, and stop to look at a large excavation—with foundation walls thick and heavy, and with strength sufficient for a massive superstructure, I am told, here too, the munificence of a *Montgomerian* is conspicuous—and if I return to the city, and begin to count your houses—to inspect the solid material from which they are constructed, I am told this too gives evidence of the skill, the industry and fidelity of a *Montgomerian*. It is impossible then, with recollections like these—with associations and ties of interest—for me to entertain any other feeling, than that of respect, for her people, and admiration at her growth, her enterprise and her intelligence.

But while I cheerfully accord all this to Baltimore, she has a quality which I feel bound to say I cannot admire. I mean her commercial selfishness—nay, sir, I may add, her political selfishness. When I see her representatives here, seeking for Baltimore, *political*, as well as commercial aggrandizement, at the expense of the rest of the State, I should be false to my duty, as an humble representative from one of the counties, if I did not enter against it my deliberate protest.

Well, Mr. President, what do we find. I have proposed that we shall insert an article in the *bill of rights*, to encourage associations, whose object is to advance and promote the various interests in all classes, and of all parts of the State. I do not propose even to exclude associations which heretofore have been so liberally patron-