There never yet had been an hour when this power was more desirable, now when the voice of passion raged so high. He wanted this power for the benefit of the people, to save them from oppression. It is the sheet-anchor at this hour of the rights of the people. A fanatical Congress passed law after law, and the vetoes of President Johnson, from his high citadel of constitutional liberty, were interposed, so as to produce an impression even on the fanaticism itself. Those State papers will yet proclaim in trumpet tones the resurrection of liberty. He hoped this amendment would be voted down, and that almost unanimity would be required to override the veto.

Mr. McKaig was in favor of the veto power, not because Alexander Hamilton had written in favor of it in The Federalist, but because he looked at it in a common-sense view. We were to have universal suffrage, that is, negro suffrage, and the consequence will be that we will not have as good men in office or as good legislators as in the old times. The people are very much demoralized—they want office, whether they are fit for it or not. The way to arrest hasty legislation, then, is to interpose this veto power.

Mr. Farnandis did not think that it was necessary in our case to give the veto power to the Governor. Every one recognized the beneficent effects of the veto power in the general government, but no one could assert that the necessity existed for it here. The reasons set forth why the veto power should be possessed are to prevent the Legislature from encroaching on the Executive, and the dangers of hasty legislation. As to the first, no instance could be cited in the history of Maryland where either one or the other department attempted to encroach on the other. As to hasty legislation, guards had already been placed. It required a majority of all the members elected to pass a law, and this was the case in many of the other States. When the veto power was first bestowed, a bare majority of the members present was sufficient to pass any measure. The people of Maryland had never known this principle; it was a new matter in their legislation.

This Convention was not here to make a constitution for itself, but for the people, and the feelings and even the