

mischiefs of which such vociferous complaints are made, are so manifest and startling, as they are now represented to be. No sufficient excuse for this apathy, can be found, in the fact, that during these six years, a more prosperous condition of the Treasury, diverted their attention from the alleged extravagance of the government; for it was precisely during the period, from the year 1841, to December 1844, that the deficiency in the revenue was greatest, the arrearages of interest on the public debt, accumulating during that interval, to \$1,450,961⁵/₈. And it is equally notorious, that for the three years prior to 1841, the revenue was wholly inadequate to meet the demands upon it. Is it not strange then we enquire, that the cry of reform and retrenchment, to be brought about, by means, which will hereafter be shown, not to be warranted by the constitution, should not have been raised during these six years; but that immediately after the gubernatorial election in the fall of 1844, when for the first time, under the amended constitution, a Whig Governor was elected, the very vault of Heaven is made to ring, with the deafening shout.

The undersigned have already said, that the constitution may be susceptible of amendment, and might be advantageously changed in the mode prescribed in the instrument itself; of one of the propositions before them for that purpose, the undersigned will hereafter speak. The other will probably be the subject of a report from a majority of the committee.

The convention which was held in Baltimore in the course of the past summer, and the memorial addressed to the Legislature by the gentlemen designated for that purpose, ask that provision may be made by law, for the calling of a *convention* to form a new constitution.

The undersigned think, that the Legislature has no constitutional power to grant this application, and that if the power existed, it would be inexpedient at this time to exert it.

The Declaration of Rights, and the Constitution and Form of Government, adopted on the 14th of August, 1776, with the amendments made thereto since, describe the orbit within which the Legislature of the State shall move. By the 42nd section of the Declaration of Rights, it is said:—"that this Declaration of Rights, or the Form of Government to be established by this convention, or any part of either of them, ought not to be altered, changed, or abolished, *by the Legislature of this State*, but in such manner as this convention shall prescribe and direct"—and the 59th article of the Constitution, declares:—"that this Form of Government, and the Declaration of Rights, and no part thereof, shall be altered, changed, or abolished, unless a bill, so to alter, change, or abolish the same, shall pass the General Assembly, and be published at least three months before a new election, and shall be confirmed by the General Assembly, after a new election of Delegates, in the first session after such new election; provided, that nothing in this Form of Government which relates to the Eastern Shore particularly, shall at any time hereafter, be altered, unless for the