

form of government can be made, whenever a change is desired. These provisions ought to be adhered to so long as they stand unrepealed. They are the fundamental law of the land, and are therefore binding with the force of law, upon the whole people of the State, and upon each one of them. The undersigned would regard a change of the constitution, in any other mode, than the one provided for in that instrument, as a violation of its own provisions and consequently inoperative and void. A change of government under such circumstances could never become legitimate; it would be but usurpation at last, and would so continue until the end of time—never to be justified, upon any of those great and cardinal principles of civil liberty which sanctify revolutions, and render usurpations just.

But while the undersigned have so far agreed with the majority of the committee that the Legislature have under existing circumstances no constitutional power to call a convention to form a new constitution, they have felt themselves constrained to differ from the majority as to the expediency of so amending the fifty-ninth article of the present constitution as to provide for the call of a convention of the people for that purpose whenever under all circumstances it may be deemed advisable by them—provided the convention shall be constituted in such a manner as to secure to all the counties of the State, precisely the same privileges and rights of representation as are now enjoyed by them in the General Assembly. And the undersigned will now proceed to state some of the reasons which have induced them to recommend such an alteration in the constitution at the present time.

Questions connected with a change in the organic law, are at all times apt to become of so exciting a character as to engender the severest contentions among those who come within the range of their influences. But more particularly is this apt to be the case, when the spirit of party becomes mingled with them, and assumes a prominent control over the feelings and passions. It would be infinitely better for the public interest, if such questions were but seldom agitated. But it seems to the undersigned to be of equal, if not of paramount importance, that, when such questions are raised, and the public mind has become inflamed with reference to them, some effort should be made, to produce a condition of repose and quiet, more compatible with the happiness and prosperity of the people. The undersigned would be happy if they believed they had it in their power to say, that no such distracting and disturbing elements were at work among the people of their own beloved State. They have watched with more than ordinary anxiety, the movements within the last two years, which have been made by the people in various portions of the State, upon the subject of Conventional Reform, and in the opinion of the undersigned these movements furnish the strongest indication of an increasing public sentiment in favor of that mode of amending the constitution. The undersigned deem it wholly unnecessary to enquire, how far these manifestations of popular sentiment have had their origin in any well settled convictions, that reform is necessary for the public good, or that the present con-