

## REFORM CONVENTION OF MARYLAND.

TO THE CITIZENS OF FREDERICK COUNTY.

*Fellow citizens:* As one of the delegates chosen to represent you in the union reform convention, which met in Baltimore in June last, I attended that convention, and executed the trust to the best of my judgment and ability, and was garatified to witness the moderation and unanimity with which that body came to the result expressed in their resolutions.

The honor of presiding, during the deliberations of the convention was unexpectedly conferred upon me, and by reason thereof, a responsible duty imposed, in the event of a certain contingency, which required me to reassemble the convention. The contingency happened, and for disobeying the injunction, I owe you and the members of the convention, an apology.

Upon the question of revising the constitution of the state, the two great political parties were divid-

ed among themselves, and the friends of reform became convinced, that a union, as to this particular measure, was indispensably necessary to its ultimate success.

This much desired union, not however, without some difficulty, was in time happily effected, and the convention of June last, consisting of delegates selected indiscriminately from both parties, met in Baltimore, and after a session of some days, in the true spirit of union and compromise, closed their deliberations, by the adoption of the following resolutions.

*1st. Resolved,* That it be recommended by this convention, to the people of the counties and cities friendly to a reform of the constitution of the state, to elect, at the next October election, delegates faithfully pledged to the people to introduce and support a bill to provide for taking the sense of the people on the question of reforming the constitution of the state, on the first Monday of May, 1837, and in the event of a majority of the people declaring themselves in favor of such reform, providing in the same bill for the calling of a convention for that object.

*2d. Resolved,* That in the bill providing for the call of a convention, the members of the convention ought to be distributed equally among the several congressional districts of this state, with the exception of the fourth, which being a double congressional district, ought to have twice the number of representatives of any other district—that the members of the convention should be elected on the first Monday in June, 1837, to assemble in the city of Annapolis, on the fourth day of July, thereafter, to prepare and present a constitution for the ratification of the people of Maryland, at the following October election.

*3d. Resolved,* That if within forty days after the commencement of its session, the legislature shall refuse or neglect to provide for ascertaining the sense of the people of the state upon this important question, and for calling a convention as prescribed in the previous resolutions, the president of this convention is hereby required forthwith to convene this convention for the adoption of such ulterior measures, as may there be deemed expedient, just and proper, and may be best calculated, without the aid of the legislature, to ensure the accomplishment of the desired results.

*4th. Resolved,* That this convention respectfully recommend the appointment of delegates to the convention from such portions of the state as may not heretofore have made such appointments.

These resolutions clearly pointing out the course of action, determined upon, by the united friends of constitutional reform, were adopted with great unanimity.

To the consummation of the scheme of accomplishing reform recommended by these resolutions, both parties I hold were bound, and solemnly pledged to each other, at least so far as the counties represented were concerned. But the obligation has not been regarded. The pledge has not been redeemed.

The resolutions, though the result of compromise, have been abandoned, and the faithful friends of constitutional reform, who steadfastly adhered to the convention, have been deserted, and left to sustain themselves, if they can. This faithless and most unexpected conduct, at once deprived the convention of its strength, by destroying its union, and with it, at least, for the present I fear, every ray of hope for reform, through the medium of a convention chosen by the people. This union, which was the life and soul and arm of the convention, being thus treacherously disposed, I waited with anxiety the deliberations of the legislature on this deeply interesting subject, and am happy to learn that although they have not provided for calling a convention, they have submitted to you, sundry valuable modifications of the constitution, and being convinced, as I am, that any further agitation of the question of constitutional reform, in the present state of party excitement, and unhappy dissention among the friends of reform, could not eventuate in good, but might by possibility disturb, if not endanger the peace, good order and happiness of the state, I have determined to resign my seat in the convention, and accordingly do hereby resign the same, praying you, my fellow citizens, to accept the assurance of my grateful consideration for this proof of your confidence.

O. HORSEY.

Needwood, March 27th, 1836.