stitution. They were sent here to make the elective franchise freer, not to put these restrictions upon it. The poor men fought the battles of the country and did the hard work. They did the voting, and were always on hand at the primary meetings, and he would urge that their claims be recognized, and this burden not be laid upon them.

Mr. Howard had conversed with numbers everywhere, and he had yet to see the first man who thought that the levying of a poll-tax would be grievous or oppressive. He (Mr. H.) did not believe one word of it. Having the greatest reverence for the time-honored principles of our forefathers, he yet could not consent to be bound by colonial usages which were only applicable to the time when they were framed. As a member of the committee, he had voted against inserting this clause, and he should now vote for striking it out. Gentlemen had laid a great deal of stress upon the prospective unpopularity of a poll-tax, but he was unable to see the force of their arguments. In all the cities and towns the class which would be reached by a poll-tax are in the majority, and elect the officers who assess the tax. In the little town where he resided (Elkton) this was the case. The non-taxpayers were in the majority and had the power of electing all the corporation officers.

Mr. Kilbourne rose for the purpose of making an inquiry. He would like to know how this poll-tax was to be collected.

Mr. Stoddert said the Convention had nothing to do with this subject. It was entirely the province of the Legislature. He was not advocating a poll-tax, the propriety of that could be decided on by the Legislature, but to strike out the prohibition. There was no proposal to insert a provision providing for a poll-tax in the constitution, but don't take from the Legislature the power to do good by drawing money from a certain class, which he had no doubt would cheerfully respond to it. It was a moral impossibility that it should ever reach the right of suffrage.

Mr. Wickes said that, in his opinion, the striking out of this clause would be the most unfortunate thing that