

before his constituents, but before the gentleman's also.

Mr. Jamison said, in reply to the statement that the propriety of imposing a poll-tax would rest with the Legislature, that the people would not so consider it, but would regard it as a direct issue. He was in favor of retaining article 15 as reported, not only because it was hallowed by the lapse of ages, but because he believed it contained sound republican doctrine. For the mere sake of putting a few thousand dollars in the treasury, he did not want the door opened to fraud, bribery and corruption. He was unwilling to meet the people, when they came to the polls, by setting an apparent value on that which should be above all price.

Mr. Ford had not thought this article of such great importance as it would seem from the interest taken in it by the Convention. It had been assumed by members that by striking out the clause the imposition of a poll-tax would necessarily follow. This was not so. There would be no such consequence. By leaving it out the power would be left to the Legislature to act, and the members of that body could be chosen on this issue the same as if it had never been mooted before. The idea which had been advanced here, that this tax would bear heavily upon the poor man, and would be a condition of the suffrage, was a fallacy. It would have no such effect.

There was no article in the constitution to restrict the elective franchise, and the operation of striking out the 15th article could not be to prevent any man in the State of Maryland from exercising the right of suffrage, and he challenged any legal gentleman here to the contradiction. From the remarks of many members, however, this impression would be likely to go abroad to their constituents. He did not look upon this matter as such a bugbear and after voting to strike out, he did not fear to meet his constituents.

Mr. Marbury regretted to differ with his friend, (Mr. Ford,) but he and his people had become wedded to the principle contained in the article under discussion; they had been educated for generations to believe that no tax should be laid upon the head of any man. This power might be abused by designing politicians. If you give the right to lay a tax, it may be one dollar, or five dollars