

Mr. Gill hoped the Convention would give him time to state his views on this subject. This was a subject of great magnitude, and the interests of the city of Baltimore were properly in the keeping of the Convention, and he proposed to bring in a new article to the constitution relating entirely to the city of Baltimore. His friend from Baltimore county, (Mr. Wethered,) had been brought to his feet by the reference to the Union Railway. He (Mr. G.) did not profess to know all the facts about this railroad, but he did know that in the present condition of the finances of Baltimore the endorsement of its bonds was a most unwise thing. He proposed in this new article that the city of Baltimore should no longer have the power to loan its credit to internal improvements. The State of Maryland was no longer allowed to do so, and neither should Baltimore be. He also proposed to insert in this new article a provision that no new debt should be created without the prior consent of the people of the city and of the Legislature. Why did he do this? To save the city from ruin, from being burnt up, as it were. All his interest, all his property was in the city of Baltimore, and he did not want it to be completely swallowed up. There was a new city hall to be built, and to whom were the contracts to be given? He would not now go into this matter. The city council of Baltimore met every year and sat nearly every day, while the Legislature of Maryland met only once in two years, and then was restricted to a limited session. He intended to provide that the council should only sit for a certain number of days, that the mayor should be elected for four years and be ineligible. There was no matter in which the people of Baltimore, the taxpayers, were more deeply interested than this subject, and they looked to this Convention to afford them relief.

Mr. Wethered wished it to be perfectly understood that there was no man in the State of Maryland who would be less apt than he to defend the mayor and city council of Baltimore. He had only desired to repel the charges made against the Union Railroad.

The order was then adopted.

Mr. Dobbin presented a petition, numerously signed by