

And appetite, an universal wolf,  
So doubly seconded by will and power,  
Must make, per force, an universal prey,  
And last, eat up itself."

Yes, "last eat up itself!"—for such a principle must die of its own excess. It leads directly to anarchy; and anarchy never did last long—in the very nature of things it cannot last long. But in the mean time a very severe crisis might occur, which might lead to disastrous consequences. The revolution is peaceful to-day, but no one could say that it would not be bloody to-morrow.

Mr. McLANE spoke at some length, but the sketch which was prepared, is kept back for revision. It will be published early.

Mr. GWINN, stated that the House had been told in the commencement of this discussion, that the proposition of his colleague, (Mr. Presstman,) undeniable as it was in the abstract, was embarrassed by the differing sentiments expressed by those who supported it. The gentleman from Worcester had argued against its insertion in the bill of rights as radically wrong, because it was a mere abstraction declaring only that which was self-evident, and that it was therefore, unnecessary to adopt it as an article. The gentleman from Anne Arundel on the other hand, was prepared to vote against it as an abstract idea, which was dangerous in its tendency. He could not attempt to calculate the extent to which these different opinions would influence the House in its decision.

He desired, however, to say, that there was no historical proof to sustain the idea that the present Constitution was a compact among the counties, and therefore, the resolution was not objectionable on that account. But the true relation of the counties to the State would be discussed hereafter, with reference to the question of representation, when that subject came up.

The gentleman from Anne Arundel thinks that our Constitution will derive its sole validity from the ultimate ratification by the people. If this be true, and the Constitution be adopted, it is an admission of the right of the majority to frame a government, binding on the minority; and this must be the result. Whatever basis of representation is adopted, or whatever relation between the counties is established, the Constitution will be the ordinance of the majority.

It seemed to him that if the Constitution they were framing, derived all its vitality and force from the assent of a majority of the people, that this House had no right to reject the proposition which asserted that the people could exercise the same power hereafter.

He maintained that every republican Constitution contains within itself, expressed or unexpressed, the principle that all power resides in the people, and that the government which proceeds from them, is revisable by the same authority. For if it is intended for their advantage only, and originates in their consent, they can take its exercise into their own hands, as readily as a principal can revoke a power of attorney; and it does not necessarily follow that the exercise of this power would be an act of revolution.

He then referred, as an illustration of the impropriety of quoting English statesmen on such points, to the history of the vacation of the throne by James the Second, on the invasion of William, Prince of Orange, and to the reason of the difficulties in which the Parliament was involved. The discussion given in Grey's Debates, shows that they were embarrassed by the highly artificial nature of their Constitution, and all their proceeding is explicable only by reference to the fictions of that Constitution. Our case was different, and different rules and maxims should govern our decision.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, took the floor, but yielded to a motion for adjournment.

The motion was waived for the moment, to enable

Mr. C. to move, that when the Convention adjourns, it adjourn to meet at twelve o'clock on Monday.

Ordered accordingly.

And thereupon,

The Convention adjourned until 12 o'clock on Monday next.

MONDAY, February 3rd, 1851.

The Convention, pursuant to its order of Friday last, met this day at 12 o'clock.

Prayer was made by the Rev. Mr. GRIFFITH.

The roll having been called, the journal of Friday was read.

The PRESIDENT announced that reports of committees were in order.

No reports were made.

DESKS, ETC.

Mr. MITCHELL rose to offer an order, in regard to which, he said, he had not consulted any other members of the body. He thought, however, that the opinions of gentlemen who had had any experience here, would concur with his own, as to the propriety of the adoption of the resolution.

The order was read as follows:

"Ordered, That all the desks be removed from the hall, and that a large table be substituted where members can write, and that the committee appointed for the purpose of examining the condition of the Furnace, be instructed to have the flues closed, and that the old fire place be substituted."

Mr. MACRAW rose to enquire whether there was any such committee as a committee on gas.

Mr. MITCHELL suggested that it would be well so to modify the resolution, as to provide that gentlemen who might address the Convention, should, if they thought proper, speak from the platform on which the President's desk stood, instead of speaking from their own places.

Mr. McMMASTER moved that the order be laid upon the table.

And accordingly,

On motion of Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city, the Convention proceeded to the consideration of the unfinished business of Saturday last.