

The question was then stated to be on the twenty-fourth article, as amended.

Mr. McMASTER said he was opposed to the amendment, because he thought that the language of the original article was more plain and comprehensive. He hoped it would not be adopted.

The question was taken and the article was adopted.

The 25th, 26th, and 27th articles were severally read, and no amendment having been offered thereto, were adopted, as follows:

*Art. 25.* That a well regulated militia is the proper and natural defence of a free government.

*Art. 26.* That standing armies are dangerous to liberty, and ought not to be raised or kept up without consent of the Legislature.

*Art. 27.* That in all cases, and at all times, the military ought to be under strict subordination to, and control of the civil power.

The twenty-eighth article of the report was read as follows:

*Art. 28.* That no soldier ought to be quartered in any house in time of peace, [without the consent of the owner, and in time of war in such manner as the Legislature shall direct.

Mr. DENT said it seemed to him that there was a word wanting in this article. And he moved to amend it by adding, after the word "manner," the word "only."

The amendment was agreed to.

And the article, as amended, was adopted.

The 29th article of the report was read, and, no amendment having been offered thereto, was adopted as follows:

*Art. 29.* That no person except regular soldiers, mariners and marines, in the service of this State, or militia when in actual service, ought in any case to be subject to, or punishable by martial law.

The 30th article of the report was read as follows:

*Art. 30.* That the independency and uprightness of Judges are essential to the impartial administration of justice, and a great security to the rights and liberties of the people; wherefore the Chancellor and Judges shall not be removed except for misbehaviour, on conviction in a court of law, or by the Governor, upon the address of the General Assembly; *provided*, that two-thirds of all the members of each House, concur in such address; that salaries, liberal, but not profuse, ought to be secured to the Chancellor and Judges during the continuance of their commissions, in such manner and at such time as the Legislature shall hereafter direct upon consideration of the circumstances of this State; no Chancellor or Judge ought to hold any other office, civil or military, under the Constitution or Laws of this State or of the United States, or of any member thereof, or receive fees or perquisites of any kind for the discharge of his official duties.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city, moved to strike out the words "ought to" and insert "shall."

So as to make the provision, (Mr. B. said,) expressly prohibitory.

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. BOWIE moved to amend the article in the sixth line, by striking out "two-thirds," and inserting a majority.

Some desultory discussion followed between Messrs. DORSEY, BOWIE, JENIFER and WEEMS, directed, for the most part, to the proper construction to be given to the article, when

Mr. BOWIE withdrew his amendment.

Mr. RIDGELY moved to amend the 30th article, in the eleventh line, by inserting after the word "office," the words "of public trust or emolument of any kind whatever."

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city, said, that so far as such offices were concerned, the gentleman from Baltimore county, (Mr. Ridgely,) could accomplish his object by inserting in the thirty-second article, the words, "trust or emolument."

He, (Mr. B.) would now propose to amend the section, by adding the words:

"Nor shall any person hold a commission as Judge or Chancellor, at any time after such person has qualified or acted as a member of any Convention, to revise or alter the Constitution of this State, but thereupon such commission as Judge or Chancellor shall be vacated."

Mr. RIDGELY said, that the proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. Brent,) was specific in its character, and he, (Mr. R.) had no objection to its being added as an amendment, at the end of his amendment. The latter, however, was broader, and covered more ground.

Mr. RIDGELY then modified his amendment, by striking out the word "public," and substituting the word "political."

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, said, that of course, the members of this Convention would make such a Constitution as they might think right; but, as he had before said, the Convention should know and consider well what it was doing. He referred to his own position. He lived in a small town, where, as was the case in all such places, important gentlemen like himself were scarce. (Laughter.)

He was overpowered with offices of public trusts. [Mr. C. ran over the roll of them in a good-natured way.] He was incumbered with offices, and his personal convenience would be much promoted by the adoption of the amendment of the gentleman from Baltimore county, (Mr. Ridgely.) But he, [Mr. C.] thought that the gentleman should give a bill of particulars.

Mr. RIDGELY interposed, and said, he had substituted the word "political," for "public."

Mr. CHAMBERS remarked, that the proposition was still indefinite.

In regard to the amendment of the gentleman from Baltimore city, (Mr. Brent,) he, [Mr. C.] thought that this was not the proper time to discuss that question. The proposition opened up the whole subject matter, just where it had been left a number of weeks ago. It would be better to let it pass and not to rake up matter for future discussion.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city, said:

That in offering this amendment, he did not design to reflect injuriously on Judges in this Convention, but to be consistent with the princi-