

The question then was on the adoption of the said fifth section, as amended;

The question was taken, and

The section as amended, was adopted.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, gave notice that when there should be a full Convention, he would move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment of Mr. THOMAS, had been adopted.

The sixth section was then read as follows:

Sec. 6. The General Assembly may continue their first two sessions after the adoption of this Constitution, as long as in the opinion of the two Houses, the public interest may require it, but all subsequent regular sessions of the General Assembly shall be closed on the tenth day of March next ensuing the time of their commencement, unless the same shall be closed at an earlier day by the agreement of the two Houses.

Mr. PARKE moved to amend the section by striking out "two sessions" and inserting "session."

The question was taken; and

The amendment was rejected.

And then the section was adopted.

The seventh section was read as follows:

Sec. 7. No person shall be eligible as a Senator or Delegate who, at the time of his election, is not a citizen of the United States, and who has not resided at least three years next preceding the day of his election in the State, and the last year thereof in the county in which he may be chosen to represent, if such county shall have been so long established, and if not, then in the county from which in whole or in part, the same may have been formed; nor shall any person be eligible as a Senator, unless he shall have also attained the age of twenty years, nor as a Delegate unless he shall have attained the age of twenty-one years at the time of his election.

Mr. THOMAS moved to fill the blank in the fourth line, with the words "county, city, or district."

Mr. DORSEY moved to amend the amendment by striking out the word "district."

After a brief explanation between Messrs. THOMAS and DORSEY—

Mr. THOMAS accepted Mr. DORSEY's amendment.

The amendment thus modified, was agreed to.

And the same words,

On motion of Mr. THOMAS,

Were inserted in the fifth line of the section.

Mr. SPRIGG moved to amend the seventh section, as follows:

Strike out in the second line, the words "is not a citizen of the United States," and insert, "has not been a citizen of the United States for at least five years."

Mr. BROWN. This is an important amendment. I ask the yeas and nays.

Mr. THOMAS called for a division of the question, first on striking out.

Mr. DORSEY said:

He was opposed to the proposition of the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. Sprigg,) the

object of which was, to postpone the rights of naturalized citizens. Was any beneficial object to be effected by it? He saw no reason for such a provision. When the old Constitution was formed it was not considered necessary that either the Governor, a Senator or a member of the House of Delegates, should be a citizen, nor was it considered that voters should be so until the year 1836. That, however, was wrong; and the constitutional amendments of 1836 provided the remedy. But it appeared to him to be altogether unnecessary to require the lapse of five years after naturalization before a naturalized foreigner can be admitted to the privileges of a native born citizen.

He was unwilling to impose unnecessary restraints on naturalized citizens; they ought to have the same rights as natives. There was not the least danger of the State being so overrun by naturalized citizens, as to render them dangerous to the native born population. Maryland held out no such inducements to their settlement in it, in such excessive numbers, as did the new States. If naturalized citizens settle among us and give proof of their attachment to our institutions, by so conducting themselves as to obtain the respect and confidence of the community, their fellow-citizens think proper to elect them to responsible stations, he would not interpose in this respect any restriction to the wishes of the people. He saw no benefit in its interposition—no evil resulting from its omission. He would deem it wrong to put a limit of this kind on the free exercise of the elective franchise, and eligibility to office. In the State of Maine, he believed, there was a restriction of this kind, where the population is made up, in some portions of the State, of English and Irish, and other foreigners, which rendered it necessary, in the opinion of those who framed the Constitution of that State, to impose such restriction.

But in this State, he repeated, we had no ground of apprehension of an excessive or dangerous influx of foreign population; and if the people chose to elect a naturalized citizen to an office of trust and honor, he knew no reason why they should be restricted in their choice.

Mr. SPRIGG interposed and said, that if the gentleman from Anne Arundel, (Mr. Dorsey,) would yield the floor for the purpose, he, (Mr. S.,) would relieve the gentleman from the necessity of further discussion.

He, (Mr. S.,) had no intention to excite debate on this or any other question. With the permission of the gentleman, he would withdraw his amendment.

Mr. DORSEY yielding the floor for the purpose;

Mr. SPRIGG withdrew his amendment.

Mr. McHENRY moved to amend the section by striking out all from the words "United States," to the word "nor" in the seventh line, and inserting "and of this State."

Mr. McH. said, that the requirement of three years residence would be avoided by the adoption of his amendment. He thought the people were always sufficiently jealous of any encroach-