

The question was then taken on the amendment of Mr. PHELPS, and the result was as follows:

*Affirmative.*—Messrs. Chapman, President, Morgan, Dent, Lee, Chambers, of Kent, Donaldson, Dorsey, Wells, Randall, Kent, Weems, Dalrymple, Bond, Merrick, John Dennis, James U. Dennis, Crisfield, Dashiell, Hicks, Hodson, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Phelps, Sprigg, Dirickson, McMaster, Hearn, Fooks, McHenry, Magraw, Davis and Waters—32.

*Negative.*—Messrs. Blakistone, Sellman, Jenifer, Bell, Welch, Chandler, Ridgely, Sherwood, of Talbot, Colston, Chambers, of Cecil, McCulloch, Miller, Bowie, McCubbin, Spencer, Grayson, George, Wright, Shriver, Gaither, Biser, Annan, Sappington, Stephenson, Nelson, Carter, Thawley, Stewart, of Caroline, Harcastle, Gwinn, Brent, of Baltimore city, Ware, Schley, Fiery, Neill, John Newcomer, Harbine, Kilgour, Brewer, Anderson, Weber, Hollyday, Slicer, Fitzpatrick, Smith, Parke, Shower, Cockey and Brown—49.]

Determined in the negative.

Mr. KILGOUR then moved to fill the blank with ten days, and asked the yeas and nays, which were ordered.

Mr. HICKS began to feel somewhat alarmed, he said, at the indisposition manifested on the part of the Convention, to throw around the ballot-box those guards which were so necessary to its protection, and consequently to the safety and the perpetuity of our institutions. After the angry discussion which had taken place on another subject in this Convention, and which closed only a few days ago, he had felt disposed to congratulate himself and the Convention that a subject had at last been reached, upon which he had hoped they might agree. In this, it seemed, he was disappointed. He supposed that they had all come here with a full determination to do any and every thing in their power to prevent the perpetration of frauds upon the ballot-box. He did not design to make a set speech; he had never done so. He believed it would be for the Convention itself and for the people of the State of Maryland, if there was less of that kind of speaking and a little more plain talking.

He supposed that a majority of the members of this body had a personal knowledge of the fact that frauds upon the ballot-box were every where committed. He trusted, therefore, that there was no partizan feeling about the matter. He certainly had none; and he could say, with his hand upon his heart, that although he had voted against the call of the Convention, yet when the people of the State determined there should be one, and particularly when he had addressed himself to the voters in his county for the seat he now occupied, he had resolved fully to put aside all considerations of a party character. He did not mean to say, that he was not a party man; he spoke merely with reference to the business of this Convention. It was certainly true that, in the course of his short career, he had witnessed many disgusting scenes at the ballot-box. Mr. H. proceeded to give some il-

lustrations of his experience, and expressed the belief that if gentlemen would come out and boldly speak the truth, instances still more flagrant than those he had mentioned might be adduced. He was in favor of some such limitation as was proposed by the amendment, and thought its operation would be effective in the suppression of fraud. The blank, he thought, should be filled with some period, if it were but twenty-four hours. He desired honestly to carry out, under the lights which he possessed, the full wishes of the people. He looked upon this question as being one of the most important which the Convention had been called to consider and decide; and he hoped and trusted that some system might be matured by which this practice of fraud upon the ballot-box, every where known to exist, might be done away with. He did not think that there was any difference of feeling in the Convention as to the necessity of obtaining that end, but there were some hundred and three members of the body, and about as many different plans to accomplish the result. Yet they had all such a practical knowledge of the subject, that it seemed to him some such system might be matured in an hour. He would go even for a registration—in short, he would go for any and every thing, by means of which the one great object—the protection of the ballot-box—might be attained.

Mr. DAVIS said that the evil which was complained of, had been felt in the county of Montgomery. In that county there was at least as great an amount of virtue and intelligence to be found among the people, without disparaging other counties, as in any of them. Commissioners of the county were formerly elected by districts. Corruption, as it was thought, made its appearance. The county became dissatisfied on account of the colonization of voters. The mode of election was then changed to the general ticket system. He hoped that some guards would be placed round the ballot-box. He desired that the voters of Maryland should be secured in the fullest enjoyment of the elective franchise. That illegal voters are to be found he had no doubt. He would give an instance of one. At the September election a man called upon him, and, although of the opposite party, offered to vote for him. He went up to the polls with him, when, after an examination, he became satisfied that he was not entitled to vote, and requested the judges not to consider him as pressing the vote, and he then withdrew from the window. This man afterwards swore that his residence was in Montgomery county and was received. He (Mr. Davis) had since become satisfied that the man had no right to vote in that county.

Mr. BELL stated that the district from which he came was bounded by the Pennsylvania line. So far, however, from the fact was the statement made that persons from Pennsylvania came over the line in numbers to vote in the Maryland elections, that he never knew an instance of such a case. He had a high opinion of the Pennsylvanians, and believed they would scorn to be