

preference claim, for the benefit of the most interesting portion of society, and generally, will be only a small deduction, from the claims of creditors who know that this claim would be allowed, as against them, when they gave credit to the former proprietor, in his life-time. You therefore, do no wrong when you adopt such a provision

If there can be any danger of wrong it is where you give property to the living debtor and take it from his creditors. Frauds too are most apt to result from such a provision which a debtor may at any time make for himself out of what should be the means of his creditors. This does not apply to the case of a deceased man's family.

Mr. MERRICK suggested that the proposition be modified, so as to embrace "infants."

Mr. RANDALL said, he was willing to take that modification which would render the proposition stronger.

Mr. CRISFIELD moved to strike out the word "additional."

Mr. C. thought this proposition was a more objectionable one. He read the proposition. The Legislature must pass laws to give the widow additional means. Already if she has no children, the widow is entitled to one half of the personal estate. If she has children she will have one third. This proposition gives her and the infant children a preference above all other persons. If the benefit is to be conferred to infants, what is to become of grown children. Surely it is not intended by the mover of the amendment to give to the families a larger proportion of means than the law now provides. He would suggest to the gentleman so to amend the proposition as to leave it to the Legislature.

Mr. RANDALL referred to the act of Assembly, granting \$159 to widows, and after briefly defending his proposition, intimated his willingness to accept the amendment.

Mr. CRISFIELD suggested a modification.

Mr. RANDALL modified his amendment, to meet the views of Mr. CRISFIELD.

The question on the modified amendment of Mr. RANDALL was taken, and the vote stood—ayes 18, noes 36.

So the amendment was rejected.

Mr. RIDGELY called the previous question.

There was a second. And the main question was ordered to be now taken; [which main question was, on the adoption of the substitute of Mr. RIDGELY in place of the original proposition.]

Mr. RIDGELY asked the yeas and nays, which were ordered, and being taken, resulted as follows:

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Chapman, Pres't., Blakistone, Hopewell, Lee, Weems, Bond, Bell, Ridgely, Colston, James U. Dennis Crisfield, Dashiell, Chambers of Cecil, Bowling, Grason, Shriver, Gauthier, Biser, Sappington, Stephenson, Thawley, Stewart of Caroline, Gwinn, Breat of Baltimore city, Sherwood of Baltimore city, Schley, Fiery, John Newcomer, Harbine, Michael Newcomer, Kilgour, Weber, Hollyday, Slicer, and Smith—35.

*Negative*—Messrs. Dent, Chambers of Kent, Mitchell, Donaldson, Dorsey, Wells, Randall, Merrick, Jenifer, Buchanan, Welch, Hicks, Phelps, Sprigg, Wright, McMaster, Hearn, Fooks, Jacobs, Annan, Stewart of Baltimore city, and Priesman—22.

So the substitute of Mr. RIDGELY was adopted as the original proposition.

Mr. MITCHELL gave notice that he would, when there should be a full Convention, move a re-consideration of the vote just taken.

#### AN IMPRESSIVE SCENE.

It was now three o'clock, and the members of the Convention, in various quarters of the Hall, were giving strong evidences of a disposition to make a precipitate retreat into the open air.

Mr. MERRICK rose, and pointing in the most solemn manner to the clock, said—

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention:*

[The earnest tone of invocation in which the words were spoken, arrested the retreating movement, and the PRESIDENT, calling the Convention to order, and recognising the right of Mr. MERRICK to the floor said—

The gentleman from Charles will proceed with his remarks.]

Mr. MERRICK continued. Sirs, I feel it to be my duty to call the attention of this body to a most grave and important subject—one which has engaged the most devout attention of philosophers, statesmen, and patriots, in all ages of the world—whose interest has never flagged, and whose influence upon the destinies of mankind can scarcely be exaggerated. It is no less a matter than the necessity which, at this period of the day, every gentleman feels and understands, of recruiting the powers of weak, exhausted human nature. [Laughter.] I move that this Convention do now adjourn. [Roars of laughter.]

And thereupon the Convention adjourned until to-morrow at ten o'clock.

#### TUESDAY, March 4, 1851.

The Convention met at ten o'clock.

Prayer was made by the Rev. Mr. GRAUFF.

The roll of the members was called.

No quorum was present.

The PRESIDENT sent the doorkeeper to notify the absent members who were in the city, to attend the Convention.

After the lapse of some time, The doorkeeper returned and made his report to the Chair.

The PRESIDENT informed the Convention that the doorkeeper had discharged the duty assigned him.

Mr. MICHAEL NEWCOMER. I move that the Sergeant-at-Arms be sent to bring in the absent members who are in the city.

Mr. HOWE. Oh! what is the use? They will be here presently.