

He objected to such a provision on another ground—which was, that we already had in particular counties ample funds for the purpose. It was so in Queen Anne's. Mr. G. explained the operation of the school system there—and showed that a school house was built in every primary school district—by taxes levied upon the people residing in such districts, and with their consent. Would a county so situated be willing to adopt a general school system by taxation, in addition to what they had already borne, for the purpose of educating children in the different parts of the State?

There were other objections, of considerable force, which struck his mind in reference to the various propositions of the gentleman from Cecil. He, (Mr. G.) had already pointed out such as he considered the main objections. The others were subordinate. The Convention must decide which of the two amendments it would take. He was satisfied that the proposition of his colleague covered every inch of ground that ought to be covered; and, he repeated, that if it had any defect at all, it was that it restricted the Legislature too much. He believed it a matter of high importance that salutary restraints should be imposed on the Legislature, but the Convention should take care not to go so far as to incur any danger of arresting the operations of the Government. He thought it would be better to be satisfied with the proposition as it stood.

Mr. CONSTABLE made some observations to shew what were his views on the subject of the power which ought to be confided to the Legislature with regard to appropriations. His remarks will be published hereafter.

Mr. GRASON made some remarks which will be published hereafter.

Mr. MERRICK remarked that he did not rise to inflict a speech. The Convention had already listened to-day, to speeches from two able and learned gentlemen, and he thought that with the lights which had been shed upon the question by them, and by other gentlemen in the course of the general debate, the Convention must now be ready to vote. He, therefore, demanded the previous question.

Mr. BOWIE requested the gentleman from Charles, [Mr. Merrick,] to withdraw the demand, to enable him, [Mr. B.,] to say a very few words. He would, if required, renew the motion.

Mr. MERRICK acquiesced.

So the previous question was withdrawn.

Mr. BOWIE said, he had intended to take no part in this discussion, and to content himself with giving a silent vote. But, in looking over the proposition, he found its phraseology to be such as would prevent him giving it his support.

He took it for granted that the Convention, on all sides, was pretty well united in desiring to prohibit the Legislature from running the State into any great public debt. That was the main object in view. In accomplishing this end, the Convention should take care to use no language which would prevent the Legislature making appropriations that might be absolutely necessary to defray necessary expenses, or for any other ne-

cessary purpose. The Statehouse, as had been suggested, might be burnt down; and it would cost sixty or seventy thousand dollars to rebuild it. So with the Penitentiary—the Maryland Hospital—the asylum for the Deaf and Dumb—or the Blind Asylum. All these were public property, and large sums of money would be required to re-build them. Great principles of public policy, of benevolent and philanthropic action, were involved in these establishments, and they should not be left to suffer. Yet, according to his view of both the propositions, all these objects would be entirely defeated, unless they fell within the limit of the one hundred thousand, and the fifty thousand dollars.

Another objection to the phraseology of the amendment of the gentleman from Queen Anne's, [Mr. George,] was, that the Legislature should not appropriate money for the use of individuals, &c. Now, if the proposition was adopted in this form, the Legislature could not appropriate one cent to the payment of a claim no matter how just it might be. Surely, the Convention did not intend any such thing. He was sure that his friend from Queen Anne's could not entertain such an idea. And yet, under the proper, legal construction of the amendment, we must come to this conclusion.

Why should we lay a tax at the same time that we raised a sum of one hundred thousand dollars? It might be wanted for the purposes which had been indicated by the gentleman from Queen Anne's, and there were others which he, [Mr. B.,] could designate. Why not allow the State to borrow the money upon the general credit of the treasury, without laying a tax? It could be done, and it seemed to him that there was no necessity for laying a tax when we raised one hundred thousand dollars, any more than there was when we desired to raise fifty thousand dollars to meet a deficit in the treasury.

He was willing to impose all proper restrictions upon the Legislature. He would not authorise them, under any circumstances, to lend the credit of the State to private associations or companies, or for works of internal improvement. But he thought that the Convention had gone as far as the public safety demanded or public policy required, when they had reached that point. Nor did he believe it requisite to specify the objects for which these appropriations should be made. The necessity of a specific grant was not the same with a State as with the federal government. He was willing to specify the prohibitions, but could see no necessity for a specific grant of powers. He thought the proposition of the gentleman from Cecil, [Mr. Constable,] in this respect, went too far.

He, [Mr. B.,] had drawn up an amendment, which, it seemed to him, would accomplish the objects aimed at by both these propositions, divested of the objections he had indicated. It was not now, he believed, in order, but he would read it as a part of his remarks.

Mr. B. read the amendment.

Mr. McLANE invited the gentleman from Prince George's, [Mr. Bowie,] to give his view