

trict the day previous to the election, obtain his vote in the third district. So a voter residing in the twelfth ward of the city of Baltimore, and entitled to vote in the third district, may by removing into the eleventh ward, over night, claim his vote next day in the fourth district. It is therefore obvious that these persons have advantages and privileges not common to other citizens, and it is admitted that a remedy is necessary to produce equality. The amendment now offered, simply proposes that in all cases a voter shall have resided in his Congressional district or the district for which any officer is to be chosen, for six months previous to the election.

An erroneous opinion seemed to prevail, that he desired to restrain or restrict the right of suffrage. It was not so. His sole object was to secure to legal, honest, fair voters, the just effect of their votes, by preventing false and fraudulent votes.

The amendment he now offered, had a further provision, which would extend the right of suffrage to a considerable class of persons, who had never before enjoyed it, but as he thought ought to have it. Where a citizen now removes from one county to another, although all the time in the same district, he cannot vote unless he has resided six months in the county to which he last removed.

By his amendment, he would have the privilege of voting always in some part of that district, if he had not removed entirely beyond it. This provision would not only remedy the evils which had been suggested as likely to be felt by men in humble life, whose necessities required them frequently to change their place of residence, but would extend the right to quite a considerable number of persons now disfranchised.

Mr. PRESTMAN said he had a much stronger objection to this amendment than to the five days restriction, as applicable to Baltimore. The ground taken by the Baltimore delegation, was that Baltimore had a population much greater in amount, than other counties; and the hardship of the proposition bore more hardly on them than others. He instanced the operation of the restriction on the residents of Baltimore, to show the effect of the restrictions. He did not wish to encourage or countenance any frauds; and concluded with expressing a hope that the right of a legal voter might not be infringed, lest an illegal vote should be admitted.

Mr. MERRICK could not believe it possible, that this body could put all the counties of Maryland on the same footing. He instanced the inequality to which this would give rise, and contended that laws should not be so made as to have a partial operation. The amendment now offered secured equal rights to all.

Mr. RIDGELY stated that he had voted against the five days restriction; but his difficulty was entirely obviated by this amendment, which broke up colonization, and gave sufficient protection to the legal voters. He would go for it.

The question was then taken on the substitute amendment of Mr. CHAMBERS, and it was agreed to.

Mr. CHAMBERS then offered the following amendment:

"And in case any county or city shall be so divided as to form portions of different electoral districts for the election of Congressmen, Senator, Delegate or other officer or officers, then to entitle a person to vote for such officer, he must have been a resident of that part of the county or city which shall form a part of the electoral district, in which he offers to vote, for six months next preceding the election, but a person who shall have acquired a residence in such county or city, entitling him to vote at such election, shall be entitled to vote in the election district from which he removed until he shall have acquired a residence in the part of the county or city to which he has removed."

Which was twice read.

Mr. SELLMAN suggested that a delay of a day or two should be allowed for the consideration of this amendment, as he thought that some difficulty might exist in relation to it. It was a proposition for which all gentlemen would be likely to vote, if they could properly do so; and he cited, in illustration; a case in which difficulty might arise.

Mr. PARKE moved to strike out six months and insert "one," but, on a suggestion from the Chair, that the motion was not now in order, withdrew it.

Mr. CHAMBERS modified his amendment by inserting the word "ward."

Mr. SPENCER said that the proposition of the gentleman from Kent, struck him with great force, but he thought it was not entirely exempt from difficulties. Therefore, he asked a little more time for its examination. As the gentleman from Kent desires to promote the object we all desire in this proposition, it might be desirable to let it lie over until Monday. He stated, in brief, what were his objections, and as he wished to vote for it, if on examination these objections should be removed. He would vote that the amendment might be laid on the table and printed. It can be again offered in the House; or, after we have voted on some other amendments, might be brought up again in committee of the whole.

The CHAIR intimated that the motion was not now in order.

Mr. CHAMBERS made a further explanation, in which he suggested that as in all laws for practical purposes, hardships could not be in every case avoided. So it might possibly be in carrying out this law. The proposition now offered had been deliberated on, and the Committee had come to the conclusion that if we cannot extend the franchise to all, we may to some. He had no desire to press the vote now. It might be postponed until Monday, if the Convention was not prepared to act on it.

Mr. SPENCER did not wish to be understood as opposing the amendment. The gentleman from Kent, had forcibly presented his reasons. But his objections were not obviated. He hoped the amendment would be printed, after which he