

as if they had them in their direct power. In this I see objection. I gave that as one of my objections to a long continuation in office. As to making any personal charge against either of the gentlemen, I did not mean to do it. I spoke of the natural necessary consequence of these long continued associations.

Mr. CHAMBERS. The Convention have heard the gentleman. If he means to say there is any thing in the association of the present members of the judiciary—

Mr. BOWIE. I do not mean to say any thing against them.

Mr. CHAMBERS. Then there is no necessity for me to disclaim. There are other facts, which the gentleman has thought proper to state, which may be essential in the view he may take, but of which I do not profess to have the least knowledge. He says that the cause of this Convention, is the desire of the people to have the judges elected by the people, and a radical change in the present judiciary system, of course with a tenure for a term of years. Now, sir, I have only to remark, that I have heard the particular cause for the calling of this Convention assigned by gentlemen on this floor, who assumed to know exactly why it was, and several other causes, and not this one have been each on different occasions alleged to be the cause. The gentleman supposes that a person who is not now in favor of electing judges by the people, is as rare an object as a "black swan." With a perfect knowledge that what I say is to be seen and read by those who sent me here, and that I am to be judged for the accuracy of this statement, and appreciating fully the responsibility under which I make it, I tell the gentleman that in the political portion of that community with which I have been associated, I have yet to hear of the very first man who expresses the opinion which he considers universal, and I feel authorized to include also in this category many of adverse politics.

Mr. BOWIE. I ask my friend to enquire of two of his colleagues, whether they have heard many of their constituents express an opinion in favor of an election of the judges by the people?

Mr. C. (after speaking to his colleague, Mr. Lee, who occupied the adjoining chair,) said, my colleague near me, who has within the last few hours returned, after being at his home for a number of days, confirms what I have said to the fullest extent, and assures me he does not know of a whig in the county of that opinion.

Mr. PHELPS. I have just returned from my county, I have been there during the session of the court, when I had an opportunity of meeting a great many persons, and never, during the canvass last fall, or since, do I recollect to have heard a man say he was in favor of electing the judges by the people.

Mr. CRISFIELD. Those who were in favor of electing the judges by the people, were defeated in my county.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I only mean to say to the Convention, that when a gentleman rises and speaks positively about facts of such a character as the one now noticed, it can mean no more than

the expression of an opinion on his part, and the weight of such an opinion must, of course, in a great measure depend upon his means of information.

Mr. BOWIE. The gentleman has called on gentlemen to testify; I suppose I have a right to do the same thing?

Some conversation followed on the part of Messrs. Dirickson, Jacobs, Foulks and Bowie, as to the ground taken in respect to the election of judges by the people, in the recent canvass by the several gentlemen who were candidates as delegates to the Convention from Worcester county.

Mr. CHAMBERS proceeded. I called no witness to the stand. The gentlemen who made their statements, did so from a feeling of justice to the statement I was making. But I have no other use to make of the information, except to say that when the gentleman from Prince George's estimates the number of black swans by the number of persons who are opposed to the election of judges by the people, he will make black swans cease to be a rarity. I do object to the gentleman's undertaking to speak, as he has spoken, for the entire Eastern Shore, in so positive and dogmatic a style, that a man who dares to doubt, begins to quake for the safety of his limbs almost, and especially when all this is accompanied with that tremendous stamp that threatens the security of the floor. As to the Southern counties, the votes of the members will, in due time, indicate their notions on this subject, when we shall see if the gentleman has more warrant for his opinion in regard to their views, than for those of the entire Eastern Shore.

Mr. BOWIE. The gentlemen is entirely mistaken. I did not say the Eastern shore were in favor of electing judges by the people. I said that on the subject of judicial reform the Eastern shore and the Southern counties were actuated solely, or rather more permanently, in calling this Convention together, by a desire to see some reform in the judiciary, than by any thing else. What their opinion is as to the election of judges by the people I have no means of knowing, but I said, that that question was the all absorbing question to the people of our section of the State, including the Eastern shore.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I think the gentleman is entirely mistaken. His course of arrangement was, that two great questions only could occasion a call of the Convention, one the question of representation, the other judicial reform; that as to the first, the people of the Eastern shore had too much sagacity, too much good sense, to send delegates here to sacrifice their own political power and importance, and, therefore, the entire Eastern shore did consent to the Convention from the sole motive to reform the judiciary.

Mr. BOWIE. Yes, sir.

Mr. C. Now, sir, what is the fact? What does your record testify? I speak not of any fact on the authority of my personal knowledge. I ask no concession upon the faith of my individual opinion or assertion, but I refer to the unmistakable proof upon your journal. And how does it bear upon the gentleman's idea as