

to the city of Baltimore. I ask the yeas and nays on the adoption of the amendment of the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. BOWIE.)

The yeas and nays were accordingly ordered on agreeing to the amendment of Mr. BOWIE, and being taken, resulted as follows:

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Blakistone, President pro tem., Dent, Morgan, Hopewell, Ricaud, Lee, Dorsey, Wells, Randall, Kent, Weems, Dalrymple, ple, Bond, Sollers, Brent of Charles, Ridgely, John Dennis, Dashiell, Williams, Hicks, Hodson, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Phelps, Bowie, Tuck, Sprigg, McCubbin, Bowling, Dirickson, McMaster, Hearn, Fooks, Jacobs, Gaither, Schley, Fiery, Neill, John Newcomer, Davis, Kilgour, Waters, Weber and Smith—45.

*Negative*—Messrs. Howard, Buchanan, Welch, Lloyd, Sherwood of Talbot, Colston, Constable, Miller, McLane, Spencer, Grason, George, Wright, Shriver, Biser, Annan, Sappington, Stephenson, McHenry, Magraw, Nelson, Carter, Thawley, Stewart of Caroline, Hardcastle, Gwinn, Stewart of Baltimore city, Brent of Baltimore city, Sherwood of Baltimore city, Presstner, Ware, Harbine, Michael Newcomer, Brewer, Anderson, Hollyday, Fitzpatrick, Parke, Ege, Shower, Cockey and Brown—42.

So the amendment was adopted.

The section as amended was then agreed to.

Mr. BOWIE gave notice that on to-morrow he should move to reconsider the vote of the Convention on the amendment submitted by Mr. CRISFIELD and adopted by the Convention as the 9th section of the report, and also that part of the report relating to the judiciary of Baltimore.

Mr. JOHN NEWCOMER gave notice that on to-morrow he should move to reconsider the vote of the Convention on the amendment offered by Mr. DONALDSON, on the 11th of April, as the 21st section, providing for the mode of changing the Constitution.

Mr. RANDALL also gave notice that at the same time he should move to reconsider the vote of the Convention on that section of the report of the committee on the judiciary, abolishing the Chancery court.

The Convention then took up for consideration the following amendment offered by Mr. MERRICK, on the third instant:

"The Legislature shall at its first session after the adoption of this Constitution adopt some simple and uniform system of charges in the offices of clerks of courts and registers of wills in the counties of this State and the city of Baltimore, and for the collection thereof, and for the allowances and payment to said officers respectively of fixed annual salaries, not to exceed two thousand dollars, and such additional allowances as the local authorities may judge necessary and proper with reference to the amount of business to be done for the compensation of assistants."

The question pending on the 3d inst., was on the amendment offered by Mr. BOWIE, to the amendment, to strike out "two thousand" and insert in lieu thereof "twenty-five hundred."

Mr. TUCK moved to amend the amendment of

Mr. MERRICK, by striking therefrom the following words:

"And for the allowances and payment to said officers respectively of fixed annual salaries, not to exceed two thousand dollars, and such additional allowances as the local authorities may judge necessary and proper with reference to the amount of business to be done for the compensation of assistants."

Mr. TUCK agreed with those gentlemen who contended that the county authorities ought not fix the salaries and extra allowances of these officers. He thought that the Legislature should fix their compensation by law, so that when the people looked at the statute book, they could tell what these officers received. Uniformity of charges and compensation could be secured in no other way.

Mr. BROWN said:

That the fees of officers were fixed by law, and they had tried to reduce them, but had never been able to succeed. He was willing to take the gentleman's amendment, provided he put a limit on it.

Mr. SPENCER made some remarks, which will be published hereafter.

Mr. TUCK, was no more in favor of fees than other men, on the contrary, he had always been opposed to them.

Mr. SPENCER. You leave them open.

Mr. TUCK replied, that he made it obligatory upon the Legislature, to adopt some mode of charges. This did not necessarily imply charges by fees. The Legislature would be obliged to take up this subject at its first session, and if there had been this outcry, they would do something to remedy the evil.

The gentleman answers, that the Legislature will be less willing than himself to do justice to the people. He, (Mr. Tuck.) would think that the salary system for clerks and registers was the best system, but he was willing to limit the amount they should receive, whether by fees, salaries, or in any other way. But let the Legislature attend to this duty. Make it imperative and they will act.

Mr. RICAUD stated that in some offices the fees were much less than \$2,500; while in Baltimore they were much greater. He wished to pay the office-hire, clerk hire, etc., out of the fees of the office, wherever they would justify it.

Mr. BOWIE remarked that the amendment of the gentleman from Prince George's, [Mr. Tuck.] left the whole question to the legislature.

Mr. SPENCER said:

That as long as the clerks were paid out of the fees of office, just so long would they be kept up high, for the benefit of clerks and subordinates in the office. There would be no inducement to reduce them. This was the proper time and place to prevent the continuance of this evil.

Mr. RANDALL said:

That he did not believe there was a lawyer in the Convention who would undertake to look at a fee bill and declare whether it was correct or not. When brought to him, he had invariably