

resentation. I therefore greatly prefer that form of communicating, at all times, with any other department of the government.

There is another thing to be said with reference to this. If it is impossible to remedy the injustice on writing, however great it may be; it is useless and worse than useless for us to squander the time of this convention upon the subject. Now what can be done? Take the facts as stated by the gentleman from Prince George's yesterday, as stated by his colleague this morning, precisely as stated, what is it possible to do under the circumstances? As I understand the statement, an irresponsible body of men, sent by no officer of the government, and it is not known who—

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. Let me correct my friend. He was sent by the colonel of his regiment stationed at Bladensburg, and the negroes taken from our county were taken to Bladensburg and not to Washington, and were never reported to the department.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. So I said; they were not sent by an officer of the government, they were not acting officially. Whether the order came from a sergeant, a captain, or a colonel, still it was not from any proper official source. It was something outside. They took certain men. These men, as I understand it, have been credited by the government to the place where their names were entered, and where perhaps bounties were paid. How is it possible to trace these men upon the muster-roll? Or beginning at the other end, taking the muster-rolls, how is it possible to trace these men back as Maryland men? That class of people change their names whenever they please, without waiting for acts of assembly. They may have gone under one name or another name. So far as I can conceive, it is altogether a matter disconnected with the government, and one in which it is impossible to trace the men so as to rectify any injustice that has been done.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. If the gentleman will allow me, I will say that if the inquiry is set on foot by the proper authorities, I will undertake to prove every individual so enlisted, and can trace them to one particular regiment in which they were placed by this officer. I will have them all identified.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE resumed: I will only say that it will come very near the power of omniscience if that can be done.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. Not at all. Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. It will not fall much short of it. I was going on to add one other remark, that if it could be done, supposing for a moment that it could be done as the gentleman seems to suppose, they have been credited to a certain part of the State, or if they have gone out of the State they have been credited to another State. Does it not necessarily follow that if it could be done,

the whole apportionment within the State, or as between the States, has got to be remade, and a readjustment and new apportionment to be made? Does there not necessarily follow an entire suspension of the draft for 500,000 men, indefinitely, blocking the operations of the government for months, to rectify it? It seems to me perfectly plain that it is so; and that the government will not be disposed to submit that its operations shall be so embarrassed and impeded, for the very reason that they will say, if this injustice was committed, it should have been noticed in a proper form, and at the proper time. It certainly would not have been half as hard to follow and identify these men, to tell where they were then, as it would be now after the lapse of time. If you have the power now to trace them, much more had you the power then, and you should have attended to it at that time. In the exigency upon us now, in the necessity for men, in our requirement of an army, the United States shall not be delayed until this investigation can be made, and this readjustment. It seems to me therefore, in the first place, useless. At the same time, I have no objection to vote to send a communication of inquiry to the governor.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's, demanded the yeas and nays upon the amendment moved by Mr. HEBB, and they were ordered.

The question being taken, the result was— yeas 40, nays 32—as follows:

*Yeas*—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Annan, Bond, Brooks, Carter, Cunningham, Cushing, Daniel, Ecker, Galloway, Harwood, Hebb, Hopkins, Hopper, Keefer, Keanard, Larsh, Marbury, Markey, Mayhugh, McComas, Mullikin, Murray, Negley, Nyman, Parker, Purnell, Robinette, Russell, Sands, Schlosser, Smith, of Carroll, Smith, of Worcester, Sneary, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Sykes, Todd, Wooden—40.

*Nays*—Messrs. Abbott, Belt, Berry, of Prince George's, Billingslev, Blackiston, Briscoe, Brown, Chambers, Clarke, Crawford, Davis, of Charles, Dent, Duvall, Earle, Edden, Gale, Hatch, Henkle, Hodson, Horsey, Jones, of Somerset, King, Lansdale, Lee, Mitchell, Miller, Morgan, Parran, Pugh, Ridgely, Smith, of Dorchester, Turner—32.

When their names were called,

Mr. ABBOTT said: Believing this to be a matter entirely out of the province of the convention, I shall vote against every proposition of the kind. I vote "no."

Mr. SANDS said: Believing this a matter of sufficient importance to be acted upon by the convention, and believing that we shall all be convinced on reflection that we would better address the governor a communication than to send a committee, I shall vote for the order as amended by the gentleman from Allegany. I vote "aye."