

Upon this question Mr. STOCKBRIDGE called for the yeas and nays, which were ordered.

The question was then taken, by yeas and nays, and resulted—yeas 37, nays 33—as follows:

*Yeas*—Messrs Annan, Baker, Billingsley, Blackiston, Bond, Briscoe, Carter, Chambers, Clarke, Crawford, Davis, of Charles, Dent, Duvall, Hoffman, Hollyday, Hopkins, Hopper, Horsey, Johnson, King, Lansdale, Larsh, Mayhugh, Negley, Parker, Parran, Peter, Ridgely, Smith, of Carroll, Smith, of Dorchester, Sneary, Sykes, Todd, Turner, Valliant, Wilmer, Wooden—37.

*Nays*—Messrs Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Audoun, Barron, Brooks, Brown, Cunningham, Cushing, Daniel, Dellinger, Ecker, Farrow, Galloway, Hatch, Hebb, Hodson, Keefer, Kennard, Lee, Markey, McComas, Mullikin, Pugh, Purnell, Russell, Schlosser, Scott, Smith, of Worcester, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Thomas, Wickard—33.

The amendment was accordingly adopted.

Mr. ABBOTT, when his name was called, said: Believing that this is a matter entirely for the legislature, I vote "no."

Mr. DANIEL. I am alike interested in the county as the city. But believing that this amendment may do harm to the city, I shall vote "no."

No further amendment was offered to this section.

Section two was then read as follows:

"The general assembly shall provide, by general law, for dividing the counties into towns or permanent municipal corporations, in place of the existing election districts, prescribing their limits and confiding to them all powers necessary for the management of their public local concerns; and whenever the organization of these township corporations shall be perfected, all officers provided for in this constitution, but whose official functions shall have been superseded by such organizations, shall be dispensed with, and the affairs of such towns and of the counties as affected by the action of such towns, shall be transacted in such manner as the general assembly shall direct."

Mr. CHAMBERS. I find in this section the following:

"The general assembly shall provide, by general law, for dividing the counties into towns or permanent municipal corporations, in place of the existing election districts, prescribing their limits and confiding to them all powers necessary for the management of their public local concerns," etc.

This subject seems to have been acted upon while I was absent. I think it may not have attracted as much attention as it deserved. The consequences, perhaps, had not been regarded as seriously as they merit. From the early history of our State, we have been divided into counties and parishes. Many of

our old acts of assembly have recognized those territorial divisions of the State, and many of their provisions necessarily connect themselves with that division. Subsequently election districts were introduced, and the whole State is now divided into election districts. Our people are familiar with this arrangement. I have not heard that it has produced the slightest inconvenience. We have had corporations that have transacted all our county, parish and district concerns, without the slightest exception being taken, so far as I have learned, to their efficacy.

But now the proposition is introduced to adopt the system which prevails in the northern States, converting all this into a different order of things, by the creation of townships. This system, I believe, universally prevails at the north, where each township is a sort of province by itself; where they do all their business, impose their taxes, and regulate all their concerns, as an independent, and to a certain extent a sort of sovereign community. Now all this is utterly unknown to our people. It does not comport at all with the habits of any who have been educated here. And gentlemen who come among us from the north, can very soon fall into our habits. I have heard of none of them objecting to our system, or failing to migrate here because of this difference in our organization.

Now if this proposition is adopted, you subvert the ideas of very many amongst us; you bring about a state of confusion, for which I do not perceive the slightest necessity upon the face of the earth. Why make this change? What is it to effect? How is it to promote the interests of the State? Who demands it? To what end is it to be brought about? Are gentlemen aware that this will require the whole State to be cut up in a different manner altogether, with a different style altogether of governing the State; a different set of officers altogether, just by this simple provision? A very few words comprise all this. But I tell gentlemen that those few words are of most tremendous import. It is the introduction of a new system of governing the State in its internal affairs. See what it provides:

"And dividing the counties into towns, or permanent municipal corporations, in place of the existing election districts, prescribing their limits, and confiding to them all powers necessary for the management of their public local concerns."

It is a complete revolution; an entire change, of course to be followed by the necessary consequences. Whenever these townships shall be perfected, then the officers provided for in this constitution, but whose official functions shall be superseded by such organization, as they all will be, your county commissioners and everything of that sort, will all be dispensed with. It so provides.

"And whenever the organization of these